The pride of North Carolina's electric cooperatives

Volume 39, No. 9, September 2007

C630.5
C293

Carolina country

Fairs & Festivals

#BXNGZPW ******AUTO**3-DIGIT 275
#04409229643000001#

1 79

N CAROLINA COLLECTION
CB 3930 UNC-CH
WILSON LIBRARY
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001

ALSO INSIDE:

Co-ops support local festivals

Your photos at fair time

All about shiitake mushrooms

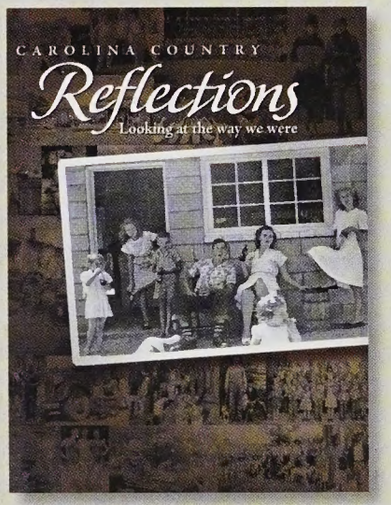
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Thinking of a home energy audit? See page 24.

New Reduced Price!

$35
Free Shipping!

Now's your chance to own this popular book at a discounted price. Carolina Country Reflections makes a unique gift. Limited quantities. It's easy to order online at www.carolinacountry.com



Carolina Country Reflections

A book of more than 200 photographs showing life in rural North Carolina before 1970. Scenes of family life, farms, working, special gatherings, fun times and everyday life. Each picture has a story that goes with it.

This is a limited edition printing of a high-quality, hardcover "coffee table book," measuring 8½ x 11 inches with 160 pages. Only $35 (tax included) Free Shipping!

Please send _____ copy (or copies) $35 per book.

Total Enclosed $ _____

Send a check or money order with your mailing address. Make checks payable to Carolina Country.

NAME

MAILING ADDRESS PHONE

CITY STATE ZIP COUNTY

VISA MasterCard Discover Cards

CARD TYPE (PLEASE CIRCLE) CARD NO. EXP. DATE

SIGNATURE

Send To: Carolina Country Reflections | P.O. Box 27306 | Raleigh, NC 27611 | Or Order Online at: www.CarolinaCountry.com

Carolina country

September 2007
Volume 39, No. 9

EnergyUnited cosponsors the N.C. Barbecue Festival in Lexington on October 27.

FEATURES

10 *It's All Related*
In his 33-year career at a cooperative, R.B. Sloan Jr. related to people and business.

12 *What Kind of Mushrooms Are These?*
How to grow, buy, cook, enjoy and pronounce shiitake mushrooms.

14 *Cooperatives & Community Pride*
Festival sponsorships are another way Touchstone Energy cooperatives show commitment to the communities they serve.

18 *It's Fair Time*
"Pop's Last Fair," "On a Dare at the Dixie Classic" and more of your favorite country fair photos.

FAVORITES

4 **First Person**

8 **More Power to You**
A solar clothes dryer and CFL bulb test.

28 **You're In Carolina Country**
Your huntin' dog costs more than your truck.

31 **Carolina Country Store**

32 **Marketplace**

33 **Joyner's Corner**

35 **Carolina Compass**
Adventures in Caldwell County.

38 **Carolina Gardens**
Horsetails and Johnny jump ups.

40 **Energy Cents**
Building a fireplace fire.

41 **Classified Ads**

42 **Carolina Kitchen**
Party Treat, Mexican Lasagna, Lunch Box Pizzas, Peanut Butter Freezer Pie.

ON THE COVER

A day at the fair would not be complete without some fried dough. (Photo by Tara Verna)

Carolina country

2006 George W. HAGGARD Memorial Journalism Award Winner

Read monthly in more than 570,000 homes

Published by North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

3400 Sumner Blvd.
Raleigh, NC 27616

(800) 662-8835
www.carolinacountry.com

Editor
Michael E.C. Gery, (800/662-8835 ext. 3062)

Senior Associate Editor
Renee C. Gannon, CCC (800/662-8835 ext. 3209)

Contributing Editor
Karen Olson House, (800/662-8835 ext. 3036)

Creative Director
Tara Verna, (800/662-8835 ext. 3134)

Senior Graphic Designer
Warren Kessler, (800/662-8835 ext. 3090)

Publication Business Specialist
Jenny Lloyd, (800/662-8835 ext. 3091)

Advertising
Jennifer Boedart Hoey, (800/662-8835 ext. 3077)
Todd Boersma, (919/293-0199)

Executive Vice President & CEO
Rick Thomas

Senior Vice President, Corporate Relations
Nelle Hotchkiss

North Carolina's electric cooperatives provide reliable, safe and affordable electric service to 850,000 homes, farms and businesses in North Carolina. The 27 electric cooperatives are each member-owned, not-for-profit and overseen by a board of directors elected by the membership.

All content © Carolina Country unless otherwise indicated.

Member, Audit Bureau of Circulations

Periodicals postage paid at Raleigh, N.C., and additional mailing offices. Editorial offices: 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, N.C. 27616. Carolina Country® is a registered trademark of the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (ISSN 0008-6746) (USPS 832800)
POSTMASTER: Send form 3579 to P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.
Subscriptions: Individual subscriptions, $10 per year. $20 outside U.S.A. Schools, libraries, $6. Members, less than $4.
Address Change: To change address, send magazine mailing label to your electric cooperative.

Carolina Country magazine is a member of the National Country Market family of publications, collectively reaching over 7 million households.

Advertising published in Carolina Country is accepted on the premise that the merchandise and services offered are accurately described and willingly sold to customers at the advertised price. The magazine, North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives, Inc., and the member cooperatives do not necessarily endorse the products or services advertised. Advertising that does not conform to these standards or that is deceptive or misleading is never knowingly accepted. Should you encounter advertising that does not comply with these standards, please inform Carolina Country at P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611. (919) 875-3062.

Carolina Country is available on cassette tape as a courtesy of volunteer services at the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Raleigh, N.C. (888) 388-2460.

HAS YOUR ADDRESS CHANGED?

Carolina Country magazine is available monthly to members of North Carolina's electric cooperatives. If you are a member of one of these cooperatives but do not receive Carolina Country, you may request a subscription by calling Member Services at the office of your cooperative. If your address has changed, please inform your cooperative.

You know you're in Carolina country if your co-op is there, too

By Michael E.C. Gery

One of your favorite pages in this magazine is one you write yourselves. It tells us, "You know you're in Carolina country if..." Some recent examples are that you know you're in Carolina country if

Someone who has lost a lot of weight is looking "right poor."

A man is really strong if he is "stout."

Judging from the rate at which you send these to us, there's an endless number of ways you can tell you're in Carolina country.

One we're running this month (see page 28) is from Iris Gentry, who lives in Lowgap, Surry County: "You go to the Surry-Yadkin Electric Membership meeting in October and get a refund check and a ticket that might win you a nice prize." She's referring to the Oct. 6 annual meeting of members that Surry-Yadkin EMC will hold in Dobson. Like at any co-op, Surry-Yadkin members routinely receive "member dividends" or "capital credit refunds" that either return cash or credit member accounts with funds that exceed the co-op's requirements for doing business. As not-for-profit, member-owned corporations, cooperatives return funds to members once they secure enough capital to operate responsibly.

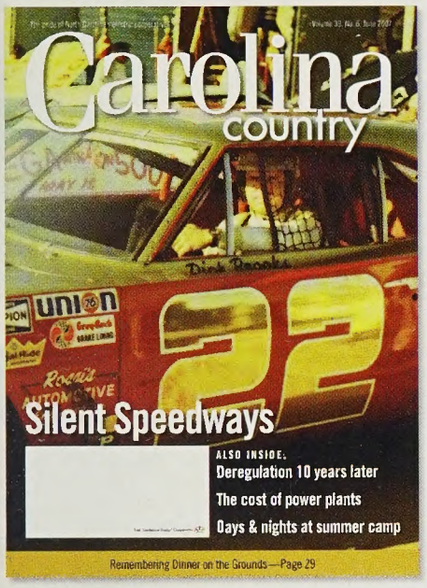
At the Surry-Yadkin meeting, like other annual membership meetings, those who attend are eligible for door prizes. Some annual meetings also serve refreshments, entertainment, exhibits, and an opportunity to vote for board members. In some places, these annual meetings are the closest citizens can get to real, democratic community meetings.

North Carolina's cooperatives traditionally hold their member meetings in spring and fall. Some are scheduled on weekday evenings, others on Saturdays. Carolina Country tries to attend as many as we can. It gives us an opportunity to be part of one of the most important events that a cooperative sponsors each year. We can meet members who care how we produce your monthly magazine and your co-op's newsletter. You tell us what you like and what you'd like to see in future magazines. Many of you tell us that you're grateful to your cooperative for sending the magazine to you in the first place. And we usually have some token of our own appreciation for you. This year, it's a compilation of recipes that members have sent to us over the years. The new recipe book, in fact, is "back by popular demand," because so many of you at annual meetings the past few years asked us to publish another one. We'll be at the Albemarle EMC and EnergyUnited meetings this month. Next month we'll be in Dobson, as well as the Central EMC, Pee Dee EMC, Four County EMC, Union Power and Rutherford EMC meetings.

Maybe the most important way that cooperatives affect your lives is by remaining close to your communities. The people who work at your cooperative live and work in the communities they serve. That adds a personal touch to their level of commitment.

The same commitment appears at local fairs and festivals. Look on pages 14–16 to get an idea how cooperatives lend support to community celebrations.

Throughout the year, Touchstone Energy cooperatives work above and beyond the call of duty to bring you safe, reliable, affordable electric service. All 27 cooperatives in North Carolina are doing something right now that sustains local business and culture in the communities they serve.



Standing up

I really enjoyed your June 2007 issue. Having been an avid NASCAR (Winston Cup) fan for over 40 years, your racin' article was fantastic. "Dinner on the Grounds" also brought back a lot of memories. I went so far as to pick up some extra copies to give to some friends in South Carolina.

As for letter-to-the-editor negative comment on the photo of the "Free Lt. Calley" message on car No. 6: When the picture was taken in 1971, we still had a few rights in this country. I was serving in Viet Nam when the My Lai situation took place. It was a dark day, as the letter writer describes it. However, we were at war then, unlike Dec. 7, 1941, and Sept. 11, 2001, when thousands of innocent civilians and military were literally slaughtered while we were not at war.

Maybe the owner of No. 6 felt as a lot of us did, that Lt. Calley, being the lowest ranking officer, was used as a scapegoat, and he wanted to use his race car to stand up for what he thought was right. For that, I applaud both you and the owner of car No. 6.

Given the "politically correct" world that we live in today, it is very doubtful that the Nextel or Sprint or whatever it's called today would allow a statement like that to be put on a car because it might offend someone. A few years ago, Morgan Shepherd was not allowed to race with a cross painted on the hood of his vehicle.

Rod Ricks (SMS USAF Ret.)
Stedman, South River EMC

For America

The photo of the car stating "Free Lt. Calley" [June 2007] did not offend me. Back then, and still today, I feel that Calley got a raw deal. I served in Viet Nam. If you believe that there aren't civilians in a war, what about the twin towers? Do I feel badly when children are hurt in a combat situation? You betcha. But if others have to die to protect Americans, then so be it. To keep America free and safe takes a lot. People in combat have to act. If they wait to react, then they may be dead. I am very proud to be an American.

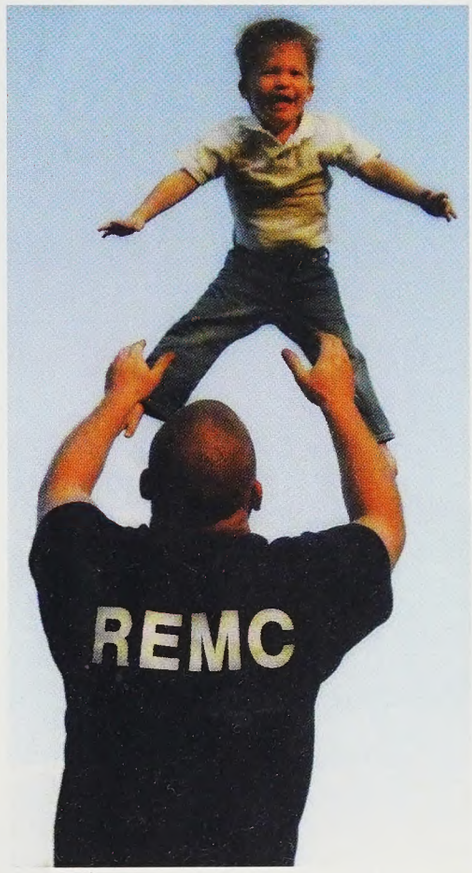
Dennis Raikakos
Lumber Bridge, Lumbee River EMC

Corn Day inspiration

My mother, husband and I enjoyed Jean Grant-Thompson's article on Corn Day [August 2007]. My husband gave me the article on the morning of our own Corn Day, and it made for great conversation during our "shucking and silking." Mattie, my mother who is now a healthy 78, recalled many corn days with her own mother and reminded me of when I was 7 or so and she would put me into her Buick with pillow and blanket so I would sleep while she and her mother would "pick the garden." When I awoke I would change into garden clothes and play in the garden until they finished.

My grandmother passed away in 1986 at age 85. I am fortunate at 41 to have had my mother continue these traditions and pass them along. I agree that those generations will one day be gone, but our mothers taught us well, and we will pass down what we learned. We may be small in numbers, but I, too, will never look at an ear of corn without thinking of my mother and her mother. Let's try to keep and pass along the inspiration.

Maria Frye, Coats, South River EMC



Happy to be here

After a long day at work, my husband, Kyle Greene, who is a lineman for Randolph Electric Membership Corporation, was really happy to see our son Noah. Our neighbor Alex Rowland captured the moment with his camera. I think it really shows that REMC is truly a part of our family.

Shelley Greene, Robbins

Correction

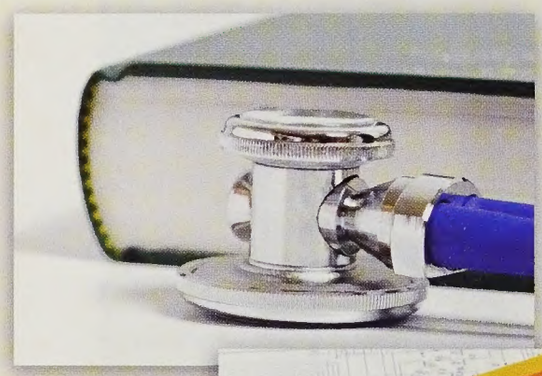
The article we published in the August 2007 issue on "How to Apply to College" contained a misstatement. A college's "Early Decision" is not binding on students applying to the University of North Carolina system. Thanks to Sally Quinn of Merry Hill for pointing this out to us.

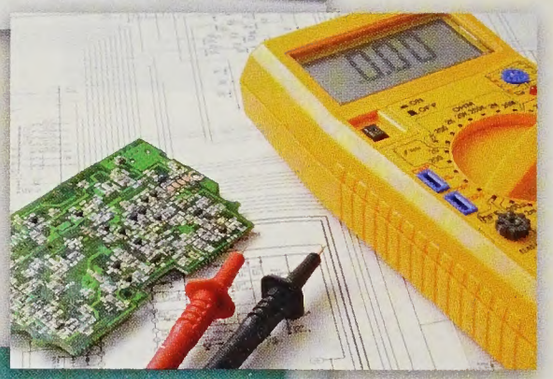
Contact us

Web site: www.carolinacountry.com
E-mail: editor@carolinacountry.com
Phone: (919) 875-3062
Fax: (919) 878-3970
Mail: 3400 Sumner Blvd.
Raleigh, NC 27616

UNC CHARLOTTE
DISTANCE EDUCATION

DEGREE & LICENSURE PROGRAMS





ONLINE

Nursing Programs

- RN to BSN (For Registered Nurse graduates of either an associate degree or diploma program who wish to pursue a baccalaureate degree in nursing)
- Master of Science in Nursing - Community/Public Health, School Nurse & Population Options
- Graduate Certificate in Nursing Education (For MSNs or BSNs who are currently Nurse Educators or interested in becoming Nurse Educators)
- MSN-Nurse Educator (For BSNs who are currently Nurse Educators or interested in becoming Nurse Educators)

Engineering Technology

BS Engineering Technology Degree Completion (2+2)

- Electrical (for applicants holding the Associate in Applied Science in Electrical, Electronics, Instrumentation, admission in Fall only)
- Fire Safety (for applicants holding the Associate in Applied Science in Fire Science, admission in Fall and Spring)

Teacher Education

- Middle and Secondary Licensure Program
- Academically or Intellectually Gifted (Add-On Licensure)
- Special Education: Adapted Curriculum/Lateral Entry/Initial Licensure
- Special Education: General Curriculum/Lateral Entry/Initial Licensure

For information about these and other programs, visit UNC Charlotte's Distance Education website:

www.DistanceEd.uncc.edu

When you're ready to begin, call toll free 1-877-583-2966 (to request an Information Packet) **or Email us: DistanceEd@uncc.edu** (please put program interest in subject field)

METAL ROOFING
ON SALE NOW
$1,000 OFF
Any roof purchase this month
We Work All Year!
• No need to put your roof problems off!
• We install right over your roof
• No tear off or leaking
This is the LAST ROOF You'll Ever Need!
30 DAY BEST PRICE GUARANTEE!
Talk to your representative for details

Trust Your Home To "Your Residential Metal Roofing Professionals!"

Our advanced-design Galvalume steel roofing has been tested in wind tunnels at up to 200 mph! And, with special siliconized polyester coatings applied over baked on high performance primers and special chemical pre-treatments, you can be assured of a look and finish that can take whatever punishment the weather can dish out. Why settle for an ordinary, brittle shingle roof when you can armor-plate your home with MERIDIAN METAL ROOFING!

- ☑ FIRE PROOF
- ☑ WIND PROOF
- ☑ ROT PROOF
- ☑ HAIL RESISTANT
- ☑ TERMITE PROOF
- ☑ CURL PROOF
- ☑ HEAT PROOF
- ☑ RUST PROOF

Now featuring

35% Energy Savings Pledge!

Call toll-free TODAY for a FREE, no-obligation roof inspection, hands-on product demonstration and estimate!

★ VALUE ★ DURABILITY
★ BEAUTY ★ SECURITY
★ EXCLUSIVE LIFETIME WARRANTY

Locally owned and operated!

BBB MEMBER

MERIDIAN Metal Roofing.com

100% Convenient Financing

INVESTMENT GRADE MRA ROOFING

Call Toll Free
1-866-331-9878

www.meridianmetalroofing.com

Put it in the socket

I read the Carolina Country article about compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) in your September 2006 issue. Like most people I am hesitant about spending more money for something that people claim will save me money in the long run or down the road. We are creatures of habit. If it ain't broke don't fix it. It's worked OK for 100 years, why change it?

Well, I know it's hard to believe, but the CFLs do save energy and reduce my home's lighting cost. In 2005, I started keeping up with the number of kilowatt-hours that I use each month. No real reason, I just wanted to look for spikes or months that I used the most current. I had heard about these light bulbs from friends, but I really did not believe there was a lot of savings there. In February 2005, I was shopping in Roses and I found six CFL bulbs in a pack. I bought them, and the following day I replaced six regular 100-watt bulbs with the CFLs.

After reading your article I went to the data that I had gathered and made a chart. It clearly showed a substantial reduction in kwh usage. They work! They do save energy and lower cost. Thanks for your magazine. I get a lot of good information from it.

Joe Callis Jr., Clinton, South River EMC

Put it on the line

I have been a member of Carteret-Craven Electric since 1998. Over the years, I have received your magazine, and I read it every time cover to cover.

I noticed that for a while now you have put in some "green" articles, highlighting ways to save energy and use less electricity.

I am a native Californian who long ago was exposed to conserving energy. But I was influenced as a child by my mom, who is from southeastern Kentucky, to a practice of conserving energy which appears to be considered archaic by many.

The practice is to simply use a "solar clothes dryer"—a clothesline—and let the sun and air dry clothes. My solar clothes dryer is an umbrella-shaped one, but we have a family of three, so it is sufficient.

Of course, the electricity-related benefit is that we use our dryer much less. I am more than aware that the dryer, along with the hot water heater, is an "energy hog." So I am very careful about using the dryer, and when I do I make sure to clean the filter so it will run more efficiently.

But the solar clothes dryer allows me to avoid using hot or even warm water for wash cycles. I own a washer which has an automatic cold water rinse cycle, but also has a three-temperature setting as well as three water levels (I also conserve water). When clothes are dried out in the sun as weather permits, the UV rays naturally bleach clothes and kill germs. The sun and air also freshen the clothes.

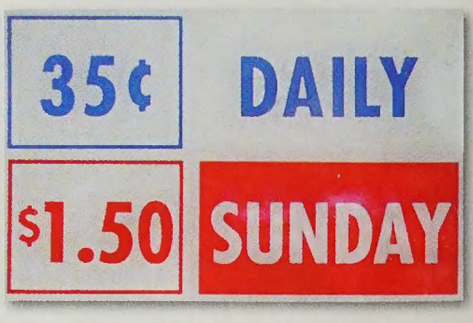
As I look around while driving, I rarely notice any clotheslines or other ways people put clothing out to dry. Years back it was the norm.

With the realization that our planet is in trouble, and with home electricity rates as they are, it just boggles my mind that so many people don't take advantage of a free resource—nearly unlimited—to lower their electric bills by just hanging their clothes out to dry on the line. Maybe we could start a trend. I know this may sound a bit hokey but "hang it out" comes to mind as a slogan. Or maybe "put it on the line."

Dori Oney, Havelock, Carteret-Craven Electric

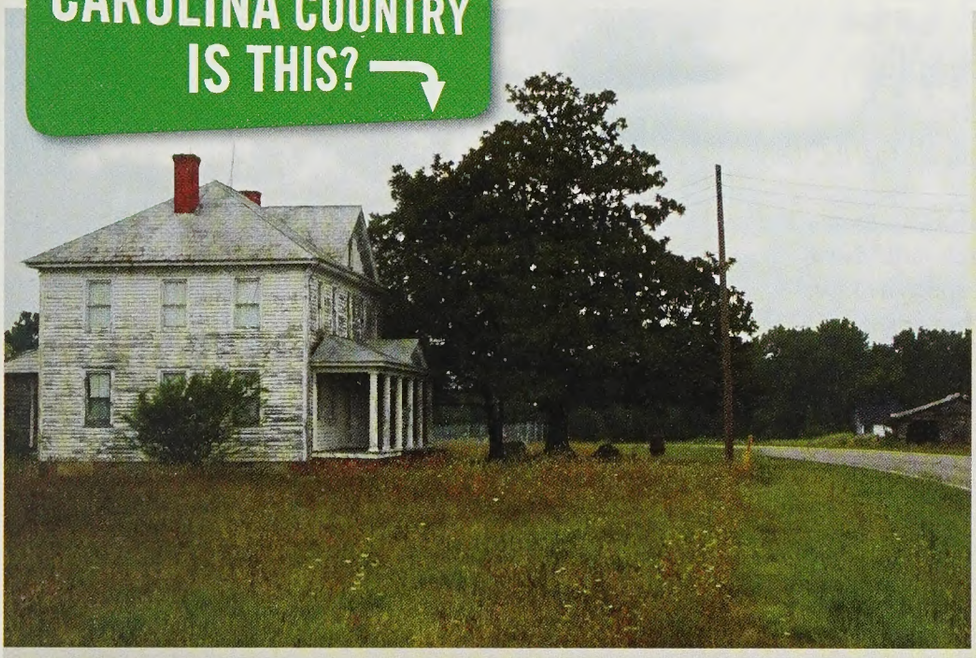
Did you know...

The cost of a Sunday newspaper is approximately the same price as providing electricity to the average home for eight hours?



Electricity, a good value.

WHERE IN CAROLINA COUNTRY IS THIS?



This is a Carolina Country scene in Touchstone Energy territory. If you know where it is, send your answer by Sept. 7 with your name, address, phone number and the name of your electric cooperative.

By e-mail: where@carolinacountry.com

Or by mail: Where in Carolina Country?
P.O. Box 27306
Raleigh, NC 27611

The winner, chosen at random and announced in our October issue, will receive $25.

August winner:
The August photo showed the St. Jude's Chapel of Hope in the Trust community of Madison County, French Broad EMC territory. It's at the intersection of Hwy. 209 and Hwy. 63 between Luck and Spring Creek near Hot Springs. The Barutios, who run the Trust General Store, built the tiny chapel (it seats 8) to honor the saint that Mrs. Barutio credits with her cancer recovery. The chapel is always open to the public. We received many correct answers from all over the state. Correct answers were numbered and the $25 winner chosen at random was Kit Hicks of Nebo, a member of Rutherford EMC.

Energy use: myths and facts

As energy costs continue to rise, consumers are looking for ways to reduce their energy use. Although there are a lot of good ideas out there, there are a lot of misconceptions as well about what is really effective. Here is a common myth concerning HVAC in commercial buildings. Source: Cooperative Research Network and E Source Companies.

Myth: I should run my HVAC 24/7 to avoid an increased demand charge from the "spike" that occurs when the equipment starts.

Fact: Although turning on HVAC equipment will cause a power spike on the order of fractions of a second, this period is not long enough to have any impact on demand charges. Demand charges are based on the average power used in a facility during 15-minute periods. The spike from turning on such equipment does not last long enough to significantly affect this average. Not only are there no significant demand savings from running HVAC equipment continuously, but there is a significant downside as well. Equipment life can be considerably shortened, and unless the equipment is designed to operate at continuously variable capacities, it likely will not be able to properly match the cooling load and will waste energy and decrease comfort.

More power and a community center

The Union County town of Hemby Bridge will benefit in two ways from a new substation constructed there by Union Power Cooperative. The growing town not far from Charlotte will get an additional boost in electric power as well as a new community center.

Because of rapid growth in the area, Union Power determined that a new substation is required to meet the future electrical requirements. The substation site includes the town's former fire department building. Union Power engineers, landscape architects, and environmental professionals last fall talked with the Hemby Bridge Town Council about saving part of the building to use as a community center.

"When we found out Union Power would work with us, it showed us how much they were concerned about the communities they serve," said alderman Ron Gregory.

Union Power, a Touchstone Energy cooperative, will lease the building to the town for a nominal fee.

The new community center is approximately 3,200 square feet and will be used for town events and community functions. It will also be available for Hemby Bridge residents to use for events such as family reunions or birthday parties. "When I'm asked, I tell our residents we leased the old fire department and most of the folks feel it's the best thing that's happened to our town in a long time," Mayor Jim Simpson said.

It's all related

R.B. Sloan worked to relate to people and business throughout his career

By Michael E.C. Gery

As president of the financing corporation for cooperatives nationwide, R.B. Sloan Jr. spoke to the 2002 annual meeting of the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation in Dallas.

After working 33 years with an electric utility, R.B. Sloan considers the challenge today is to "remain relevant." Now that electricity is a commodity that people expect, he says, "A utility, especially a cooperative, must show that our service is something customers can't get anywhere else. Cooperatives can distinguish ourselves above the others, to be visible to our communities and bring value to members."

"Relevance" also describes how R.B. Sloan has distinguished himself. He's always learned what is necessary to be significant to his cooperative and community. After 33 years with the same cooperative, he retired from EnergyUnited, the state's largest, last July as CEO. He has moved on to work as director of the Vero Beach, Fla., electric system, where he can "refocus and get excited about something new," he said. And the location allows him and his wife, Rita, to be near their son, Adam.

Riley Buren Sloan Jr. grew up in Alexander County in a family that has been in the area for seven generations. He graduated from Stony Point High School and earned an engineering degree at N.C. State University. He expected to return home and help his dad's electrical contracting business. But his mother advised him to look at what else might be relevant. Two days after college, on Dec. 17, 1973, he began work at Crescent Electric Membership Corporation, the cooperative based in a new office near Statesville about four miles from where he was born.

Crescent was formed in 1970 when the Davie and Cornelius cooperatives merged. R.B. worked with Adam Odell Wagner, the operations chief who had been with the cooperatives since the lights first went on. Wagner became R.B.'s mentor. For a co-op growing especially fast in the north Mecklenburg and south Iredell, Lake Norman areas, they surveyed, built substations and transmission systems, acquired rights of way. Sloan succeeded Wagner as manager of engineering and operations in 1978. He soon immersed himself in business matters, including cost-of-service and rate studies, and power requirement issues. He had earned his professional engineer's license and later an M.B.A. "The business side," he said, "came naturally to me."

When longtime manager Donald Rice retired in 1989, the Crescent board appointed R.B. Sloan to head the co-op of about 80 employees. Growth was the primary challenge, and the character of the membership was changing. Sloan helped develop new programs to remain relevant, to meet the expectations of both old-timers and newcomers.

At the same time, nearby growing cities presented one of the largest tests Sloan would face: territory issues. As cities annexed territory, co-ops felt encroachment on their rural service areas. "I was spending at least 25 percent of my time on territorial disagreements," Sloan said. "The problem is not so much the time, but what it costs consumers. You can see places around here with three sets of utility lines on top of one another. It's costing consumers millions of dollars in duplication of facilities. It's sad and just plain wrong."

The territory tussle continues today. Sloan believes there's a solution: good faith negotiation among cooperatives, city electric systems and investor-owned systems like Duke Power, to agree which will serve designated territories.

In the mid-1980s, after another co-op manager, Gary Whitener of Rutherford EMC, inspired him to embrace the natural relation between co-ops and their communities, Sloan entered public service. In 1988 he was elected an Iredell County Commissioner and served all four years as chairman. Dividing his time between the co-op, politics and his young family (married in 1974, son Adam in 1979, daughter Megan in 1983), he did not seek re-election. When the children were older, he ran as a lifelong Republican for the N.C. Senate in 2002 and was elected with 70 percent of the vote. Two years later, when Senate districts were re-drawn, Sloan lost re-nomination. He considers it a blessing. "I was responsive to the citizens," he remembers. "But later on I realized I do not have the very thick skin that you need to be in politics at that level."

Under Sloan's leadership in 1998, Crescent EMC merged with Davidson EMC to form EnergyUnited, serving an area from Rockingham County on the Virginia border through Davidson, Davie, Alexander, Iredell and north Mecklenburg counties. Today, EnergyUnited serves more than 114,000 member accounts and nearly 12,000 miles of power lines. Forming EnergyUnited came naturally and made business sense. "We projected $40 million in savings over eight to 10 years," Sloan said. "And we've done that." EnergyUnited expanded into related businesses that the region needed, including propane gas and comprehensive energy services. Today, EnergyUnited's 250 employees provide services in 60 North and South Carolina counties.

R.B. Sloan has served such community organizations as Iredell Memorial Hospital, Greater Statesville Development Corp., Mitchell Community College, Rotary and Masons. He worked six years as a director of the cooperatives' national financing organization, Cooperative Finance Corporation, his last as president. And he served on all the statewide boards of North Carolina's electric cooperatives.

His workmates, of course, know R.B. as relevant to everyday life. There's the R.B. who tossed a billing supervisor's shoes in the trash then had to fetch them from the outdoor dumpster, who wore Crescent-logo boxer shorts outside his trousers, who danced the Merengue in Las Vegas.

As he hands over the EnergyUnited reins to one of those workmates, Wayne Wilkins, R.B. Sloan feels confident, if no longer relevant. "I'm ready. They're ready."

Light of Hope
Diamond Pendant

Through the Storm, You do not Walk Alone

Set with a sparkling genuine, faceted diamond

Like the stalwart lighthouse, the light of faith is bright and unwavering ... always there to guide and inspire us. Now, the Bradford Exchange proudly presents an exclusive diamond pendant, shining with a brilliance that will always remind you that when you have faith you are never alone.

Exclusive Design ... Genuine Faceted Diamond

Hand-crafted in solid sterling silver, the delicately detailed pendant sculpted in the shape of a lighthouse features gleaming 24k-gold-plated accents and a sparkling faceted diamond shining brightly from the beacon. Beautifully engraved on the reverse side is a solitary cross and the inspirational message *"Through the Storm, You do not Walk Alone."* The striking lighthouse pendant hangs from an equally stunning 20" sterling-silver chain.

A Remarkable Value ... Available for a Limited Time

A sincere expression of your faith, the "Light of Hope Diamond Pendant" comes with a Certificate of Authenticity and arrives in an attractive custom-designed box that makes it perfect for gift giving.

This superbly crafted fine jewelry exclusive is an attractive value at just $79*, payable in 4 easy monthly installments of $19.75. To reserve your pendant, backed by our unconditional 60-day guarantee, send no money now. Just mail the Reservation Application. But hurry—this is a limited-time offer!

Beautifully engraved on the reverse side with the words *"Through the Storm, You do not Walk Alone"*

collectiblestoday.com
Home of The Bradford Exchange and All Things Collectible

©2005 BGE 06885-BI

LIMITED-TIME OFFER

*Reservations will be accepted on a **first-come-first-served basis**. Please respond as soon as possible to reserve your "Light of Hope Diamond Pendant."*

*Plus a total of $6.98 for shipping and service IL residents add state sales tax. Prices higher in Canada. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery of your necklace after we receive your initial deposit. All sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

RESERVATION APPLICATION

THE BRADFORD EXCHANGE

9345 Milwaukee Avenue · Niles, IL 60714-1393

YES. Please reserve a "Light of Hope Diamond Pendant" for me as described in this announcement

Signature _____

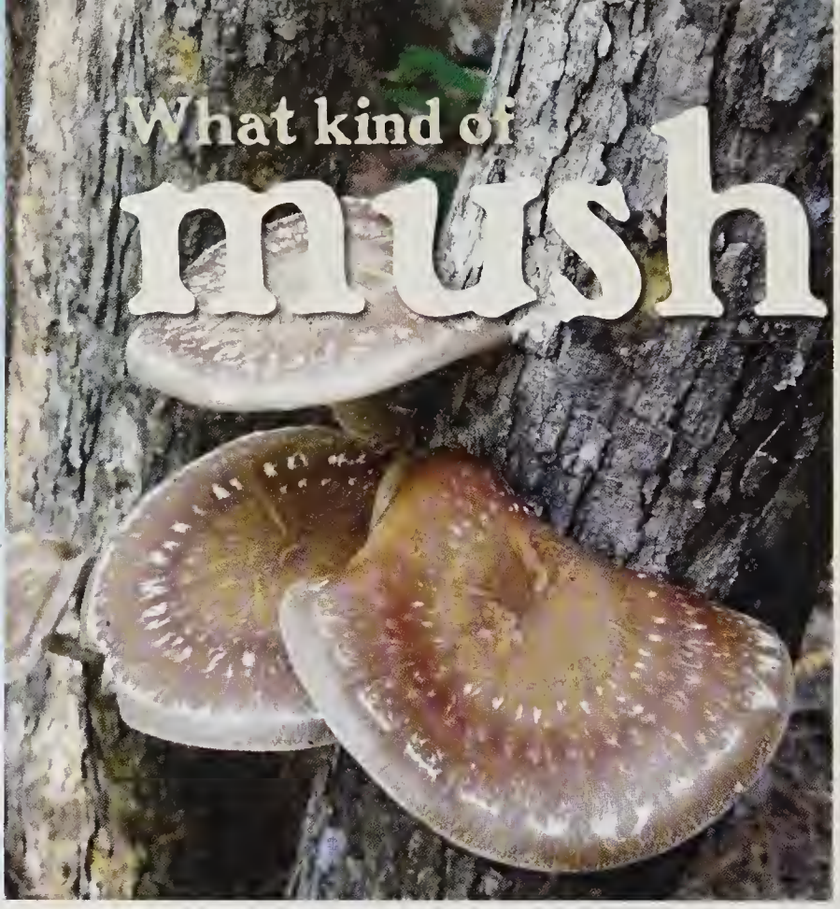
Mr. Mrs. Ms. _____
Name (Please Print Clearly)

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

06885-E67291



What kind of mushrooms are these?

By Karen Olson House

How to grow, buy, cook, enjoy and pronounce shiitake mushrooms

After a soaking rain, as if by magic, they're suddenly everywhere, sprouting atop stumps, sidling up trees, popping up on pastures.

But now in North Carolina we're seeing mushrooms cultivated on small farms, where they peek out from manmade holes in inoculated hardwood logs. More often than not, they are shiitakes, or *Lentinula edodes*, an exotic cousin of the white button mushroom.

When fully fruited, the shiitake (pronounced "sha-TALK-ee") goes to market. Later, they re-emerge on dinner plates, starring in tasty kabobs, hearty sauces, flavorful soups, chunky ratatouilles, silky pastas and other appetizing fare.

Tan to dark brown, with broad umbrella caps ranging in size from 2 to 4 inches, the shiitake has an earthy aroma, woodsy taste and meaty texture. A symbol of longevity in Asia because of its health-promoting properties (see sidebar), it's a multi-tasker in any kitchen. Shiitakes can be sautéed, broiled, baked, grilled, stir-fried or stuffed. They don't have to be cooked—folks slice it thin and mix it in salads and use it as a meat substitute for its protein.

Farmers markets in North Carolina are selling shiitakes now. Traditionally, shiitake season is April through November, although warm weather can prompt a flush in other months.

Brenda and John Garner, who own Sandy Creek Farm and are members of the EnergyUnited electric cooperative, started growing shiitakes on their family-parceled land in 2006. They pick them Friday or early Saturday morning and then sell them at The Depot, a farmers market in Lexington. "We lay them out in a basket so people can feel them as they pick them out," Brenda says. This year, they've harvesting shiitakes off nearly 700 inoculated logs.

Shiitakes worth their salt should feel cool to the touch, she explains. "The cap should be fairly smooth—that indicates good moisture content. If they're crinkled, they've lost moisture and have been around awhile."

Eating a truly fresh shiitake is deliciously different than chewing transport-weary produce encased in plastic for a week or more. Buying local is the key to experiencing full flavor.

Indeed, John munches them raw during harvest. "We harvest the whole stem, and then trim off the end. We don't cut the whole stem because people use them to flavor soups and stocks." The Garners use shiitakes in egg scrambles or sautéed in butter with fresh squash, garlic and onion.

Market customers pay $2.50 a quarter pound. The Garners also sell "value-added" products including inoculated logs and t-shirts with their logo, "Shiitake Happens."

They sell the logs at their farm, too, located in the community of Tyro, Davidson County. Visits help folks understand how to grow their own logs, which some like to give as gifts. Logs are priced according to size, and range from $20 to $40.

Depending on the season, Sandy Creek Farm also sells scuppernong and muscadine grapes, blackberries, pecans, black walnuts, garlic, heirloom pears and figs, fresh-cut and dried flowers, jams and jellies.

The Garners sell shiitake mushrooms to local restaurants, including Liberty Steakhouse in High Point, Yarborough's Restaurant in Lexington and The Buttercup Cafe in Denton. Brenda is working to develop a veggie dip made from a frozen mushroom duxelles (onions, shiitakes, garlic and heavy cream). The Garners hope eventually to sell online.

Diane Price and husband Rob Griffith, members of the Blue Ridge Electric cooperative, throw shiitake inoculation parties at their farm in Todd, located between Boone and West Jefferson. Price has been selling shiitakes for several years from The Farm at Mollies Branch.

"My daughter and her friends help at the parties," Diane Price says. "When it comes time to inoculate, we'll tell people who have expressed an interest in it that we're doing it if they'd like to come. Someone will be drilling logs, someone will be putting in the mushroom spawn, someone else puts cheese wax over the holes, someone else will be marking logs with the kind of mushroom spawn and date of inoculate."

The logs are stacked together later. Logs fruit more generously when they are with another log or in a group.

Diane notes that the price of mushrooms is climbing with consumer interest. "When we started, they were about $8 a pound. Now at farmers markets, they're going for $16 a pound."

Although she no longer sells at market, she sells shiitakes to local restaurants. Their clients include the Bistro, GameKeeper, Wildflower and Melanie's, all located in Boone.

Mushrooms in North Carolina

A rising interest among North Carolina farmers in exotic mushrooms is attributable in part to funded research aimed at developing the mushroom industry.

Headed by Omoanghe S. Isikhuemhen at N.C. A & T State University, "Edible and Medicinal Mushroom Farming in North Carolina: A Cash Crop for the Future" and subsequent projects have been assisting farmers in getting their own mushrooms started. Isikhuemhen's outreach workshops across North Carolina have been practical and hands-on, with attendees bringing their own logs in to be inoculated.

"The number of growers has increased dramatically since A & T began their mushroom project," notes Don Lunsford, spokesman of the North Carolina Mushroom Growers Association based in Brown Summit.

Chartered in 2006, the association's membership comprises more than 70 family farms growing shiitake and other edible mushrooms to supplement income. The association's mission includes promoting culinary and health benefits and providing educational and networking opportunities.

Enthusiasts note that once logs are inoculated, they can harvest in two to five years, and mushrooms face few pests. To find out more:

www.ag.ncat.edu/OmonMushroom/index.htm
www.ag.ncat.edu/omon/index.html
www.ncmushrooms.org

Edible or poisonous?

Never eat a wild mushroom unless you or someone knowledgeable recognizes it as safe. Although the majority of mushrooms are non-poisonous, North Carolina hosts several species that potentially could cause death if only a single mushroom is eaten. Small children, older people and people with existing medical problems are most vulnerable to toxins from poisonous mushrooms.

To begin learning how to safely identify edible mushrooms, use a reputable guide with full-color photographs such as "The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mushrooms" by Gary H. Lincoff.

Where to buy fresh mushrooms

These Web sites list farms and markets near you that sell mushrooms and other organic, sustainable food.

www.buyappalachian.org/index.php
www.localharvest.org
www.ncagr.com/ncproducts/index.htm

When purchasing shiitakes, the gills should be a whitish color. If the gills are brown, they are not fresh.

Fresh shiitakes can keep up to two weeks (some folks say three) in the refrigerator. Store in paper bags (plastic hastens decay).

Mushroom nutrition

Brown mushrooms such as shiitakes have antioxidant capacities that compare to green beans, red peppers and broccoli. White mushrooms compare favorably to tomatoes, carrots and zucchini.

White button mushrooms are one of the few natural food sources of vitamin D, which promotes the absorption of calcium, essential for healthy teeth and bones. Portabella and crimini mushrooms are good sources of phosphorus, a mineral that generates energy and is essential for strong bones and teeth.

Recent studies have traced shiitakes' legendary benefits to an active compound called lentinan that helps power up the immune system. Animal and human studies have shown that another active component in shiitake mushrooms called eritadenine lowers cholesterol levels.

Brenda Garner with her shiitakes.

Mushroom bruschetta

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 3 tablespoon minced onion
- 2 to 2½ cups of chopped shiitake mushrooms
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- Red wine or Balsamic vinegar
- Sliced bread (Italian, French, or baguette)

Ingredients below to taste

- Olive oil
- Garlic salt
- Shredded Mozzarella cheese

In skillet heat olive oil and butter, add onion and garlic until soft. Add mushrooms, thyme, basil, salt and pepper. Add ¼ of vinegar. Cook until soft.

Place sliced bread on baking sheet. Drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with garlic salt. Top with mozzarella cheese. Toast until cheese melts. Top with mushroom mixture.

Recipe by Cheryl Walser, Yarborough's Restaurant

Chicken and Shiitake Alfredo

- 1 package (3½ ounces) shiitake mushrooms
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine
- ¾ cup chopped sweet red bell pepper
- 8 ounces boned and skinned chicken breasts (cutlets), thinly sliced
- 1 cup heavy (whipping) cream
- 1 cup frozen green peas
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
- ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 4 ounces capellini (angel hair) pasta, freshly cooked and drained

Remove stems from shiitake mushrooms (you can use stems to flavor broths and stews). Cut each cap in half, then into 4 to 6 slices; set aside. In a large skillet, melt butter.

Add red pepper and cook until slightly softened, about 3 minutes. Add chicken and reserved mushrooms and cook until chicken is tender, about 3 minutes. Add cream, peas, salt and black pepper; boil, uncovered, until sauce is slightly thickened, about 4 minutes, stirring often. Stir in Parmesan cheese. Spoon over pasta; serve immediately.

Yield: 2 to 3 portions, about 5 cups

The Blueberry Festival is held in the courthouse square of Burgaw.

Cooperatives help celebrate COMMUNITY PRIDE

Festival sponsorships are another way Touchstone Energy cooperatives show commitment to the communities they serve

Compiled by Renee Gannon

We do love our food in North Carolina. We even throw parties for the edible wonders produced here. Among hundreds of festivals held across the state, most celebrate products found on the farm or caught off the coast. We introduce queens, share stories, play music and, of course, eat food throughout the year at get-togethers.

Here are festivals co-sponsored by North Carolina's Touchstone Energy cooperatives in chronological order beginning this month. For more information on these and other festivals across the state, visit www.ncfestivals.com and www.visitnc.com.

N.C. Turkey Festival

Raeford, September 8–15

Lumbee River EMC, co-sponsor

This weeklong celebration of the feathered fowl and the No. 1 turkey-producing state in the U.S. also showcases Raeford and Hoke County. This year's 23rd annual event features a parade, entertainment, food, golf, card and tennis tournaments, a fun walk, car show, children's activities, and a Stuffin' & Stompin' turkey dinner. There's also the famous North Carolina Turkey Cooking Contest.

(910) 875-5929

www.raefordhokechamber.com

Muscadine Harvest Festival

Kenansville, September 28–29

Four County Electric and Tri-County EMC, co-sponsors

This festival celebrating the Muscadine grape includes educational seminars about the grape and its many uses, wine tasting from more than 20 wineries, a Muscadine cooking contest, farm implement exhibits, children's activities, foods from around eastern North Carolina, and beach music from the Embers, Country Roads and the Original Tams.

(910) 290-1530

www.muscadineharvestfestival.com

Occoneechee-Orange Speedway Car Show

Hillsborough, September 29

Piedmont EMC, co-sponsor

Held at the old historic speedway, this event celebrates the automobile and raises funds for the speedway's restoration and preservation. Along with an open car show, visitors this year will have a chance to meet NASCAR legend Junior Johnson, as well as view racing cars from the past and present.

(919) 563-6532 or (919) 383-2183

www.historicspeedwaygroup.org

N.C. Seafood Festival

Morehead, October 5–7

Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative, co-sponsor

The North Carolina Seafood Festival takes place on the Morehead City waterfront with 125,000 usually attending. The second largest festival in North Carolina, it brings in an endless variety of seafood, street dances, concerts, crafts, and a fair with rides and games. Free parking and shuttle service are available. There's the Red Fish Cup Fishing Tournament, free local shrimp, the Flounder Fling! (Miss North Carolina will fling the first flounder), a road race and the Blessing of the Fleet sponsored by Carteret-Craven Electric.

(252) 726-NCSF

www.ncseafoodfestival.org

Fairmont Farmers Festival
October 20
Lumbee River EMC, co-sponsor

The Fairmont Farmers Festival is an annual event honoring local farmers. The festival began in the 1950s as a way to celebrate the tobacco industry. Today it includes a parade, the Fantastic Shakers, an antique car show and food. A pageant will crown six queens. A barn dance concludes the festivities.
(910) 628-9766
www.fairmontnc.com/farmersfestival

Havelock Chili Festival
October 20
Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative, co-sponsor

Havelock hosts North Carolina's Chili and Salsa Competition. Competitors follow the International Chili Society's rule: no beans of any kind. After judging, the beans are often added back to the pots, and 15,000 festival-goers can pay a nominal amount at contestants' booths to taste the chili and vote for the best. Also this year will be the inaugural Chicken Wing Contest.
(252) 447-1101
www.havelockchilifest.com
www.havelockchamber.net

N.C. Oyster Festival
Ocean Isle Beach, October 20–21
Brunswick EMC, co-sponsor

More than 30,000 people attend this oyster roast, which offers live entertainment, arts and crafts vendors, the North Carolina Oyster Shucking Championship, an Oyster Stew Cook-Off, a surfing contest and a road race.
(800) 426-6644
www.ncoysterfestival.com

Seaboard Festival
Hamlet, October 27
Pee Dee EMC, co-sponsor

Downtown Hamlet becomes a beehive of activity during the annual Seaboard Festival. More than 10,000 people celebrate the many years of railroad history in Hamlet. This year's festival celebrates 25 years and proceeds go to the Hamlet Opera House restoration project.
(910) 895-9058
www.richmondcountychamber.com

North Carolina Festival by the Sea
Holden Beach, October 27
Brunswick EMC, co-sponsor

On the streets of Holden Beach, Festival by the Sea features arts and crafts, a sand castle building contest, kite flying and a horseshoe competition.
(910) 842-6488
www.ncislandguide.com/festivals

N.C. Yam Festival
Tabor City, October 27–28
Brunswick EMC, co-sponsor

The orange sweet potato has a grand party, featuring a yam exhibit, concessions, arts and crafts, potato crafts, photography and quilt shows, a historic re-enactment at Heritage Hill, the Yam Festival parade, music and dance, round trip train rides to Loris and back, an auto show, a sweet potato cook off, the BB&T Kids Street area, an evening youth fest, and the popular firemen and EMS competitions. On Sunday, boat races are held at Lake Tabor.
(910) 653-2031
www.taborcitync.org
www.discovercolumbuscounty.org

N.C. Barbecue Festival
Lexington, October 27
EnergyUnited, co-sponsor

There's nothing like sharing barbecue with 100,000 other people. You'll find it during the North Carolina Barbecue Festival in Lexington, the "Barbecue Capital of the World." A six-block region of the downtown area is filled with arts and crafts vendors, entertainment stages, street performers, and fun festival food. Three large tents serve up thousands of pounds of barbecue sandwiches. Everyone loves the "Hogway Speedway" racing pigs! The festival includes a 50-ton pig-themed sand sculpture (sponsored by EnergyUnited), juried art and craft show, an antique car show, Corvette exhibit, a bicycle stunt show, "Festival Chop Shop" lumberjack sports show, climbing wall and lots more.
(336) 956-1880
www.barbecuefestival.com

Touchstone Energy North Carolina Cotton Festival
Dunn, November 2–3
South River EMC, title sponsor

Held on the first weekend (Friday–Saturday) of November in downtown Dunn, this cotton festival offers a classic car show, more than 50 arts, crafts and food vendors, Kiddy Land, live entertainment, cotton gin tours, a juried photography show and more.
(910) 892-3282
www.nccottonfestival.com

N.C. Pecan Harvest Festival
Whiteville, November 3
Brunswick EMC, co-sponsor

The Pecan Harvest Festival includes a road race, celebrity queens, pecan belles, military cadets, tour of homes, celebrity luncheon, the N.C. Pecan Harvest Festival Pageant, a parade, the Columbus Cooks Contest and special education programs at the North Carolina Museum of Forestry.
(910) 642-9732, (910) 642-4299 or (910)-914-4185
www.ncpecanharvestfestival.com

N.C. Pickle Festival
Mount Olive, April 25–26, 2008
Tri-County EMC co-sponsor

This two-day event celebrating the pickled cucumber starts on Friday evening with beach music, a beer garden and food. The rest of the weekend includes more entertainment on three stages, carnival rides, pig and duck races, crafts, a variety of vendors, mechanical bull riding, a climbing wall, car and motorcycle shows, petting zoo and pony rides, a bike stunt demonstration, 5K run, the Miss N.C. Pickle Princesses, and of course, free Mount Olive pickles.
(919) 658-3113
www.ncpicklefest.org

continued on page 16

Barbecue sandwiches are served by the thousands at the N.C. Barbecue Festival.

N.C. Strawberry Festival
Chadbourn, May 1–4, 2008
Brunswick EMC, co-sponsor

First held in 1926, this three-day event features a parade, the naming of the Strawberry Queen, cooking contest (including strawberry shortcake), a strawberry quality contest and entertainment. Before the parade, the festival honors all involved in the local strawberry industry with a social called "Strawberry Encounters" for all to share stories.
(910) 640-7084
www.ncstrawberryfestival.com

White Lake Water Festival
May 16–18, 2008
Four County Electric, co-sponsor

Celebrating the beginning of summer at this lake resort community, the festival in Bladen County includes a Miss White Lake beauty pageant, oldies and beach music, a parade, a shag contest, garden tractor and antique tractor pulls, a classic car show, a tube race and a sandcastle contest.
(910) 862-4800
www.whitelakenc.com

Big Lick Bluegrass Festival
Oakboro, June 13–14, 2008
Union Power Cooperative, title sponsor

Union Power and Touchstone Energy are proud title sponsors of the Big Lick Bluegrass Festival. The festival attracts more than 1,500 people and widely-known bands.
(704) 485-4906
www.biglick-festival-park.com

Hillsborough Hog Day
June 20–21, 2008
Piedmont EMC, co-sponsor

Hillsborough Hog Day offers family fun, good food, live music, crafters, merchandise vendors, games and rides, and the area's largest classic auto show. The festival starts on Friday night, when 36 pig cooking teams roll into town. On Saturday vendors sell everything from video games to hand-painted stained glass. More than 35,000 people annually enjoy judging the pork for themselves.
(919) 732-8156
www.hogdays.com

N.C. Blueberry Festival
Burgaw, June 21, 2008
Four County Electric, co-sponsor

The Blueberry Festival celebrates the historical, economic and cultural significance of blueberries in the southeastern region of our state. The first cultivated blueberry production in North Carolina began in the Pender County area in the 1930s. The festival includes prints by nationally-recognized Pender County artist Ivey Hayes, entertainment, a blueberry recipe and bakeoff contest, farming exposition, a car show, 5K run/walk and cycling event.
(888) 576-4756
www.ncblueberryfestival.com

Fireworks cap off the 4th of July Celebration in Oakboro.

Freedom Fest
Rockingham, June
Pee Dee EMC, co-sponsor

Held at the Rockingham Dragway, the event raises money for men and women in military service. Festivities include carnival rides, wrestling, motorcycle stunt show, drag racing of all levels and a car show. The military also brings cannons, Humvees, an F-15 exhibit and other equipment.
(910) 582-3400
www.rockinghamdragway.com

North Carolina Fourth of July Festival
Southport
Brunswick EMC, co-sponsor

The 4th of July has been celebrated in grand style for more than 200 years in Southport. Each year, around 50,000 people attend the three-day event, which includes a naturalization ceremony, arts and craft booths, food vendors, 5K Freedom Run/Walk, a parade, entertainment, games, Beach Day events, Shag contests, and of course, fireworks.
(800) 457-6964
www.nc4thofjuly.com

An Appalachian Summer Festival
Boone, July
Blue Ridge Electric, co-sponsor

An Appalachian Summer Festival is attended by more than 25,000 people, and has emerged as one of the nation's most innovative multidisciplinary arts festivals. The three-week event showcases American arts and crafts, visual arts, dance, music and fine arts. Top entertainers from traditional, jazz, symphonic and popular music perform. The Great Outdoor Fireworks is sponsored by Blue Ridge Electric.
(800) 841-2787 (ARTS)
www.appsummer.org

4th of July Celebration
Oakboro
Union Power Cooperative, co-sponsor

Week-long events include beauty pageants, beach music on the Union Power stage, rides, tractor pulls, dancing, a July 4 parade and fireworks, all benefitting the Oakboro Volunteer Fire Department.
(704) 485-3351
www.oakboro4th.com

Folkmoot USA
Waynesville, July
Haywood EMC, co-sponsor

Folkmoot USA, North Carolina's Official International Festival, is a two-week celebration of world folk music and dance. Folkmoot features performances, parades and workshops by more than 350 performers who demonstrate colorful, authentic and original reproduction costumes, lively dance and music. Over its 23 years, some 200 folk groups from more than 100 countries have performed.
(877) FOLK-USA
www.folkmootusa.org

N.C. Watermelon Festival
Fair Bluff, July 27–28, 2008
Brunswick EMC, co-sponsor

The event features a parade, the Watermelon Queens, arts and crafts, food vendors, rubber duck races on the Lumbee River, children's area, pony rides, a petting zoo, watermelon eating and seed-spitting contests.
(910) 212-0013
www.ncwatermelonfestival.com

FREE Hearing Aid Catalog

Shop by mail and Save 80%

- Products praised by *The Wall Street Journal*
- 100% Risk-FREE offer
- 45-day home trial
- Arrives ready to use
- Compare to hearing aids costing $1,000 or more

Our Customers Say it Best!

Customer comments on file – printed with their permission. Of course, individual results may vary.

"Price is right! Works better than aids I bought locally."
F.E. - Texas

"I like the way it fits. I can hear really well with it. For the first time I can hear my granddaughter talk."
I.J. - North Dakota

"I wore it to Bingo the other night and could hear what friends were saying for a change." R. Kissling - Florida

Great fit!

"I can hear the TV and understand the words which I could not do with my $5,000 aid."
M. L. - California

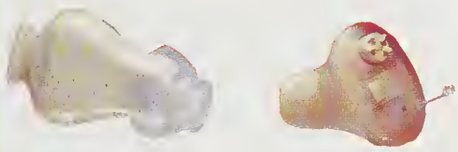
© Hearing Help Express™, Inc.

Call today for your FREE catalog!

1-800-782-6316
ext. 03-295

Shop-from-home Hearing Aid Catalog

High-quality hearing aids priced at far less than the national average. **Call today for free information: 1-800-782-6316**



Ready to use In-the-Ear Hearing Aids

Custom Fit In-the-Ear Hearing Aids

Behind-the-Ear Hearing Aids

How do you save so much?

Hearing aids have never been more expensive. According to *The Hearing Review,* the average hearing aid costs more than $1,800! Yet, luckily for you, high-quality hearing aids are available for far less from Hearing Help Express!

You can SAVE 80%! How do you save so much? You order from home and your hearing aids are delivered to your door. You avoid big mark-ups, long waits, and salesmen. Your low price is based on high volume and low overhead.

Improve your hearing Risk-FREE!

Improve your hearing risk-free for 45 days in your own home! Compare our hearing aids to those costing $1,000 and more. Decide which works best for you. You won't be sorry. We only sell genuine hearing aids. ***100% money-back guarantee!*** You order easily by mail from a family business with over 400,000 satisfied customers and 26 years experience selling hearing aids by mail.

SEND NO MONEY! *Clip & mail this coupon today for your free catalog!*

☑ **YES!** I would like a free shop-from-home hearing aid catalog. I understand there is no obligation and I get FREE shipping. www.HearingHelpExpress.com/03295

Dr./Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Mail to:
Hearing Help Express • 105 North First St., Dept 03-295 • DeKalb, IL 60115-0586

IT'S FAIR TIME!

YOUR PICTURES OF GOOD TIMES AT THE FAIR

JONATHAN ON THE RIDES

My son, Jonathan McLeod Alden, was 2½ years old when he first went to the Cabarrus County Fair at the old fairgrounds off of Hwy. 29. The merry-go-round was his favorite ride. My sister, Leslie Ann Skinner, took this picture of us. We also enjoyed the petting zoo.

His fourth grade teacher at Rocky River Elementary, Ms. Towery, had her class bring in a picture to frame with popsicle sticks and old buttons. This picture of my cutie pie with his beautiful red checks has sat on every desk where I have worked since given to me on Mother's Day.

Robbie Alden, Concord, Union Power

ABBY UNAFRAID

This is our daughter Abby at the Raleigh State Fair last October. We did not know how she was going to do on the rides, because she was only 2 years old. Abby had the best time, and now we look forward to seeing her smiles at the State Fair every year.

Curt & Kristi Chambers
Timberlake, Piedmont EMC

CORK A CUP

This picture was taken at the Cleveland County fair in 1999. My niece was playing a game which gave us time to spend together.

Bertie McClain, Kings Mountain, Rutherford EMC

FRIENDS

I have been bottle-feeding this baby calf since it was born. It has become best friends with my family's new pet lab.

Hope Earnhardt, Asheboro, Randolph EMC

Thanks to everyone who submitted pictures of scenes at local and state fairs. You can see more at our Web site. Next month we'll publish selections of your favorite photos of North Carolina scenes and people. [Deadline was August 15.] For more themes and rules in our "Nothing Could Be Finer" series, see page 20.

GO ONLINE
www.carolinacountry.com

TIFFANY THRILLED

This was taken in Forest City, off of 74 Bypass. A fair had come through Rutherford County for four days. My 4-year-old daughter, Tiffany, could not keep her mouth closed on this ride. I tried to get her to close her mouth because bugs might fly in.

Though my daughter is 19 years old now and 6 feet tall, I still have a time with her keeping her mouth closed because she loves to talk!

Sharon Hardin, Rutherfordton, Rutherford EMC

FUN & FISH AT THE CABARRUS FAIR

What fun we had at the Cabarrus County Fair 2006! My children and my nieces went to the fair for the first time together, and they had a blast. What was supposed to be an hour or two, turned out to be an all-evening affair. Needless to say, we closed the festivities with letting the boys try the Ring Toss for a fish or two.

Shannon Storm, New London, EnergyUnited

JULIE AND MR. MCFEELY

On October 19, 1997, we took our 4-year-old daughter, Julie Etzler, to her first North Carolina State Fair in Raleigh. Although it rained all day, we got to meet Mr. McFeely from "Mr. Rogers Neighborhood," a Public Television children's TV show. Julie was excited to meet him and gave him a letter to deliver to Mr. Rogers. She actually received a reply back from Mr. Rogers. That letter is in her scrapbook to treasure since Fred Rogers has passed on. What great memories that day held even though we were soaked to the skin!

Kamie Etzler, Hope Mills, South River EMC

ON A DARE AT THE DIXIE CLASSIC

In 1961 I went to the Dixie Classic in Winston-Salem. Wandering about the grounds we discovered a real live lion sitting on a table, and for a buck you could have your picture taken with it. He was huge. For a while we watched with no takers. Then my friends dared me to have my photo taken with him. He looked humble and meek as a house cat, so I bravely sat beside him, and even dared ruffle his fur. The photographer was preparing to take the shot, but when I put my arm around the cat, his jaw dropped, and his eyes grew wide. Apparently I wasn't supposed to touch, but I wasn't afraid. The cat's attention wasn't on me but on my two frightened friends. When it came time for their photo, they declined.

Franklin McCormick, Yadkinville, EnergyUnited

HUNTER AND GRANDMA

This was the first time I went to the fair, the 2004 North Carolina State Fair. I was 8 years old when Daddy, Momma and Grandma took me. This picture is special to me because it was taken with my Grandma who I love very much.

Hunter Downing, Raeford, Lumbee River

THE VIEW AT THE TOP

At the 2006 Cabarrus County Fair, my grandchildren enjoyed the Ferris wheel. They had been to the fair before, but this was the first time they had been at night. The view was incredible at the top.

Frank Whitley, Concord

PRIZE WINNERS

My grandmother and I entered my jam and canned fruit at the Cabarrus County Fair. I ended up winning 2nd place for fruit canned. On the shelf under the thank-you sign is a picture of my great-grandmother sitting beside baskets of peaches she picked over 60 years ago on the same farm I picked mine in Candor. My grandmother is 91 and in a nursing home. I will cherish this picture the rest of my life.

Cherilyn Harris, Concord

LIGHTS & TRACTORS

This is October 2005 at Cleveland County Fair. I loved going to the fair when I was young and couldn't wait to see how my 6-month-old son, Thomas, would react. He was really excited to see all the lights. But I think my husband, Wyman, was even more excited when he saw the tractors.

Rosemary Morgan
Rutherfordton, Rutherford EMC

THE MARKET LAMB

My youngest child, Alea Doby, was 3 years old when she was going to show her first market lamb at the Stokes County Fair, with Daddy's help. The year is 2005. We so enjoyed those times.

Kelli Doby, Dobson, Surry Yadkin EMC

POP'S LAST FAIR

Cabarrus County Fair in Concord, September 1995, was the last fair my dad, G.F. "Pete" Brown, and I went to. We would go every year. He was 85 years young, and on Dec. 16, 1995, he was working on the roof of his porch and the ladder broke. The doctors didn't think he would make it. He came out of a coma in two weeks. The doctors wanted to know what an 85-year-old man was doing on the roof, and we said, "Just working." He passed away six months later. A super great man.

Bette Brown Blume, Concord

send us your best EARN $50

Here are the themes in our **"Nothing Could Be Finer"** series. Send us your stories and pictures about these themes. If yours is chosen for publication, we'll send you $50. You don't have to be the best writer. Just tell it from your heart.

November 2007
Kid Craft
Your stories and photos of children's crafts.
Deadline: September 15

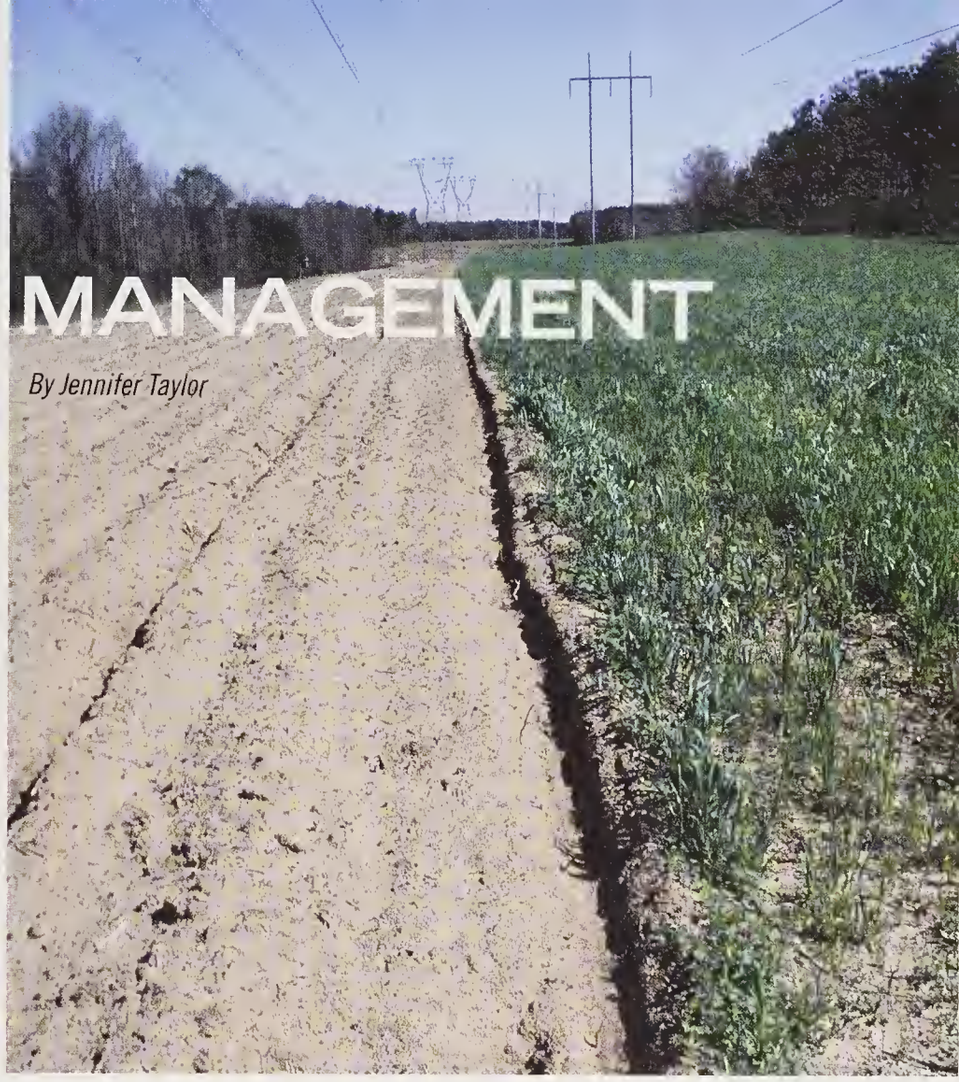
December 2007
Holiday Recipes
Recipes for your favorite holiday meals.
Deadline: October15

January 2008
How We Met
Was it love at first sight, or did it take awhile?
Deadline: November 15

The Rules

1. Approximately 200 words or less.
2. One entry per household per month.
3. Photos are welcome. Digital photos should be a minimum of 1200 by 800 pixels.
4. E-mailed or typed, if possible. Otherwise, make it legible.
5. Include your name, electric co-op, mailing address and phone number.
6. If you want your entry returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. (We will not return others.)
7. We pay $50 for each submission published. We retain reprint rights.
8. We will post on our Web site more entries than we publish, but can't pay for those submissions. (Let us know if you don't agree to this.)
9. Send to: Nothing Finer, Carolina Country, 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616
   Or by e-mail: finer@carolinacountry.com
   Or online: www.carolinacountry.com

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT
affects your electric service



By Jennifer Taylor

Vegetation management, commonly referred to as right-of-way maintenance, is essential in providing safe and reliable electric service. Electric cooperatives work hard to ensure that rights of way are regularly cleared of trees and brush to help reduce potential outages and hazards. Trees and branches growing in or near power lines can cause interruptions in service. Uncontrolled brush can impede access to utility structures.

Keeping safety first

Trees and branches pose significant safety concerns when they are too close to power lines. Children climbing trees in this situation could be severely injured or even killed if they contact an energized line. Adults are also at risk. Pruning trees near power lines should be left to qualified vegetation management professionals.

Additionally, trees can fall into power lines due to strong wind and inclement weather. Not only can power lines be knocked over, but power poles and towers can break and fall as well. Although all weather-related outages cannot be prevented, vegetation management definitely minimizes damage, injury and outages.

Reducing the likelihood for power outages

In August 2003, approximately 40 million people lost power for roughly two days in the northeastern United States. The root cause for this massive blackout—overgrown trees that contacted high-voltage power lines. The importance of vegetation management cannot be stressed enough. In fact, the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) has established mandatory requirements for transmission vegetation management.

The new standards apply to transmission lines operating at 200 kilovolts and above. Transmission lines are used to carry bulk electricity from a generating plant to a substation. Now voluntary, these new requirements will likely become mandatory and will establish formal transmission vegetation management programs that define the following:

>> regular schedules for clearing

>> clearances between vegetation and transmission lines

>> quarterly reporting systems for transmission outages caused by vegetation

Vegetation management for distribution lines is addressed through the National Electric Safety Code (NESC). Distribution lines deliver electric energy to cooperative members. Although there are no specific requirements, NESC states, "vegetation that may damage ungrounded supply lines should be pruned or removed." Some electric cooperatives are also regulated by state commissions to address right-of-way cycles.

In addition to safety concerns and outage prevention, vegetation management is necessary to reduce unexpected costs to electric cooperatives. By keeping rights of way clear, co-op crews are able to restore power more quickly, improve reliability and prevent expensive repairs to systems damaged by fallen trees or neglected vegetation.

Electric cooperatives try to do a good job of right-of-way vegetation management. In general, vegetation management is performed at electric cooperatives every two and a half to five years, depending on the service territory and terrain. Should you notice any trees or brush that need attention, please contact your local electric cooperative. This will help ensure cooperative efforts to deliver safe, reliable power at the lowest possible cost.

Jennifer Taylor is the staff writer for consumer and cooperative affairs at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

By keeping rights of way clear, co-op crews are able to restore power more quickly, improve reliability and prevent expensive repairs to systems damaged by fallen trees or neglected vegetation.

Ye Olde Wedding Announcements

Cake and commentary from 19th century North Carolina newspapers

By Barry Munson

The Western Carolinian was a weekly newspaper published in Salisbury, Rowan County, during the years 1820–1842. Articles on agriculture, an occasional biographical sketch, and letters to the editor were found on Page 1. Agricultural subjects included how to make hay, the management of pigs, cleaning flax-seed, destroying flies in turnips, the raising of hedges, and the management of fruit trees. Letters to the editor covered a variety of topics from politics to the wearing of corsets. Page 2 carried national and international news, and Page 3 dealt with information of state and local interest. The back page always had a poem selected from a writer of the period, as well as articles on moral and religious topics, scientific writings and extracts from literary works.

The newspaper also carried notices of deaths and marriages, usually on Page 3, and on December 11, 1821, the editors wrote the following about their inclusion:

> *We would remind our correspondents and friends, that marriages and deaths are published in our paper gratis, provided they come to us free. We received, a few weeks since, from Burke county, a small letter, which enveloped a marriage and 17 ½ cents in money, with a laconic request for us to return the change! Now we will inform the gentleman on the waters of Raccoon Branch, that we charge him nothing for publishing the marriage he sent us; but, as the postage of his letter (12 ½) was saddled upon us, we shall retain that amount…so that there now remains in our hands, to be refunded the sum of five cents!*

There is a world of difference between wedding reporting in newspapers today and those in early 19th century North Carolina. Today, the bride's photograph accompanies the write-up. Sometimes her bridal gown is described in the minutest detail. The groom's attire?—he only has to show up. Other information usually includes the bridesmaids, groomsmen, parents, relatives, honeymoon destination and guests ad infinitum.

JUST THE FACTS

However, a typical wedding announcement in the 1820s Western Carolinian would have read:

> *In Concord, on the 27th ult. Mr. Solomon Cress to Miss Malinda Huie.—February 15, 1825.*

"Just the facts, please, just the facts," as Sgt. Friday of TV's "Dragnet" series would say.

Occasionally, the announcement would carry a bit more information, such as this one from March 1, 1825:

> *In Wilkes county, on the 10th ult. by the Rev. R. Foster, Col. George Bower, of Ashe county, to Miss Nancy Bryan, daughter of John Bryan, Esq.*

An editor had only so much room to publish a number of news items in four pages. Newspapers also carried a wide variety of advertisements, which were the lifeblood of the paper, if it were to keep publishing. Therefore, marriages received the briefest coverage.

THE USE OF HUMOR

Still, it was not always a stark statement of two lives joining. Sometimes Philo White, editor of the Western Carolinian, would add a humorous play on words to a North Carolina wedding or publish a humorous wedding report taken from an out-of-state paper. For example, the May 17, 1825 issue carried the following:

> *In Caswell county, (N. C.) by the Rev. Mr. Graves, Capt. William Graves, to Miss Nancy Graves, daughter of General Amaziah Graves.*
> *The Grave, 'tis said,*
> *Will yield its dead,*
> *When the last trumpet shakes the skies;*
> *But if God please,*
> *From Graves like THESE,*
> *A dozen living folks may rise.*

The following, published in the Carolinian's May 3, 1825 edition, is from Baltimore:

> *In Baltimore, by the Rev. Mr. Inglis, Mr. Hugh Campbell to Miss Maria T. Death, both of that city.*
> *For death he zealously prepared,*
> *Nor wished to be the trial spared;*
> *The moment came—the Death he met,*
> *And joyful paid great Nature's debt;*
> *Clasp'd in the arms of Death he lay,*
> *Nor wished a resurrection Day.*

And from England, published in the June 21, 1825 edition:

> *Lately, at Halifax, England, Mr. D. Farrar, of Elland aged, 93, who had been a disconsolate widower seven weeks, to Mrs. Macbei, of Botley, a blooming widow of 25, after a tedious courtship of one hour and fifty-nine minutes!!!*

Sometimes the editor might let his opinion slip in, as in this February 17, 1824 edition.

> *In Lincoln county, on Thursday evening the 29th, by John Turbyfill, Esq. Captain Aaron Sherrill, to his OWN NIECE, Miss Polly Parker, eldest daughter of David Parker.*

PAYMENT IN POUND CAKE

Space, therefore, limited what could be said about the weddings of 200 years ago, whether published in Salisbury's Western Carolinian, New Bern's Carolina Federal Republican, or Hillsborough's Recorder. It was strictly the facts without any embellishment. However, there was one item that many editors would extend wedding announcements for and that was cake—whether it was a "thank you" for receiving a slice or a plea for some.

The editor of the Elizabeth City Star added this to one announcement:

> *...and returns thanks to the "happy couple" for a large slice of wedding cake, sent him as a fee for publishing the nuptials.*

The Carolinian's editor added this when he published the announcement on February 7, 1826.

> *We are glad this good old custom is getting into vogue so near home; and hope it may spread with the rapidity other female fashions do; for, in that event, WE might expect to feast all winter on pound cake.*

The editor of the Herald in Washington, NC, added his thanks to a wedding.

> *We have the pleasure of acknowledging the reception of a large slice of wedding-cake, as our fee; we would be pleased if the custom of feeing the printer for inserting Hymenial notices was more general, and particularly so, if marriages were more frequent.*

To which the Carolinian added on June 20, 1826:

> *This very custom of feeing the printer for publishing marriages, is becoming more and more fashionable every day; and we do not despair of its being in vogue in this part of the country, before long.*

In time some wedding cake did find its way to editor Philo White's establishment.

Dennis Heartt, proprietor of the Hillsborough Recorder for 50 years, also loved wedding cake. When the bride would send some to the paper's office, he would wax enthusiastically, as in the following, from a July 29, 1841, edition.

> *Who would not be an Editor, say we, if such a Shower of cake came in at every wedding as we received with the above announcement? "When!" said our Devil, as we disburdened the bearer, "what a chance!" "And how nice!" exclaimed we after peeping at and tasting of the contents. We know not how we can best express our thanks for this remembrancer; we certainly feel thankful in proportion to the fee, and this is a vast quality, you may depend. May the happy couple live long to enjoy the bliss of their new relations.*

Barry Munson works with the North Carolina Collection, Joyner Library, at East Carolina University in Greenville, where he writes the North Carolina Periodicals Index. See the Web site: www.ecu.edu/cs-lib/ncc

Home Energy Audits

Do it yourself

The first thing to do when performing your own home energy audit is to make a list of any existing problems, such as condensation and uncomfortable or drafty rooms. The next thing is to look for air leaks. They are common around electrical outlets, switch plates, window frames, baseboards, weather stripping, fireplace dampers, attic hatches, and wall or window-mounted air conditioners. When inspecting windows and doors for air leaks, if you can see daylight around the door or window frame, that is where the leak exists.

When looking at the outside of your home, examine areas where two different building materials meet. This includes exterior corners, areas where siding and chimneys meet, and places where the foundation and the bottom of the exterior brick or siding meet. Make sure to plug and caulk holes or penetrations for faucets, pipes, electric outlets, and wiring. Also, look for cracks and holes in the mortar, foundation and siding of your home and seal them with the appropriate material. Finally, check the exterior caulking around doors and windows to see if they are sealed tightly.

When performing your own home audit, make sure to examine the ceilings and walls. If these two areas are not properly insulated, you risk heat loss in the winter and cool-air loss in the summer. Check to see that the attic hatch is as heavily insulated, as well as weather-stripped and closed tightly. In the attic, determine if openings for items such as pipes, ductwork and chimneys are sealed. If you see any gaps, seal them with expanding foam caulk or another permanent sealant.

For more information on home energy audits and energy-saving techniques you can use, review Touchstone Energy's Home Energy Savings Guide at www.touchstonenergy.com.

Above: Moisture can be a significant cause of damage to both cosmetic and structural elements of your home. It can also breed mold and mildew problems which are potentially harmful to your health.

Ask a professional

Home energy audits determine how much energy your home consumes and assesses what measures you can take to make your home more efficient. Some Touchstone Energy cooperatives can arrange to perform an energy audit on your home. There also may be professional energy audit services near you.

A professional home energy auditor can help you assess the energy efficiency of your home. The auditor should do a room-by-room examination of your home, as well as look at your previous utility bills. In addition, the auditor should perform a blower door test and a thermographic scan.

A blower door is a powerful fan that mounts to the frame of an exterior door. The fan pulls air out of the house lowering the air pressure inside causing the higher outside air pressure to flow in through unsealed cracks and openings. In addition to the blower door, the auditors may use a smoke pencil to help detect air leaks within your home.

The thermographic scan allows auditors to check the effectiveness of the insulations within your home. The scan uses specially designed infrared video or still cameras showing surface heat variations in your home. The resulting thermogram helps auditors determine if your home needs insulation and where the insulation should go.

However, before the auditor begins the blower door test and the scan of your home, they will first examine the outside of the home. Auditors determine the size of your home and its features, such as the wall area and number of the windows. They will also ask you questions about your home, such as what the average thermostat setting is for the summer and winter and how many people live in the house.

Contact your electric cooperative for information about a professional energy audit. Another resource is the Residential Energy Services Network at www.resnet.us.

Alternative to grass lawns

The use of artificial turf for residential lawns is a growing trend, notably in regions where water supplies have a tough time keeping up with demand. Advocates of artificial turf point out, for example, that a whopping 56,000 gallons of water are applied each year to the average residential lawn.

Statistics also show that the mowing, watering and fertilizing of natural grass contribute as much as 2 percent to U.S. overall fossil fuel consumption. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, lawn care activities also account for about 10 percent of hazardous air pollution coast-to-coast.

But given the choice between real or artificial turf, most environmental advocates still prefer real grass. Besides helping to create the oxygen we breathe through photosynthesis, plants (including grass) filter water and sunlight down into the soil where worms, insects and moisture work in concert to hold the soil firm. And they prevent flooding while providing habitat and nourishment for birds, bees and other wildlife.

In contrast, synthetic turf is made out of petroleum-derived plastic. If installed improperly, chemicals from the plastic can seep into the ground and contaminate groundwater. Keep in mind that manufacturing and shipping artificial turf, like any synthetic product, generates large amounts of greenhouse gas emissions.

Nonetheless, because of concerns about water usage, some municipalities are trying to encourage homeowners to switch to synthetic turf. But installing artificial turf isn't the only way to minimize the environmental impact of your yard. Converting grass lawns over to less resource intensive landscaping is also catching on. Drought-tolerant native shrubs, plants and ornamental grasses don't require large amounts of water, fertilizer or pesticides. Many groundcover plants naturally hold back weeds and contribute to the health of the soil. Even rock gardens are attractive and essentially maintenance-free.

Earth Friendly Moving

A California-based moving company, Earth Friendly Moving, can deliver returnable, reusable, recycled plastic "RecoPacks" to anyone preparing to move.

Responsible relocation

Moving may be inherently unfriendly to the environment given that carting stuff around means expending lots of fuel and emitting a lot of pollutants, but there are ways to "relocate responsibly." For starters, the less stuff we accumulate in the first place the less we have to pick up and move elsewhere.

Also you can give away or sell non-essential items. Neighborhood yard sales and giveaways are one way to go, while Web sites like Ebay, Craig's List and Freecycle provide virtual ways to unload unwanted stuff. Books can be donated to local libraries, and most schools will be happy to make use of old computers. Goodwill, the Salvation Army and other charities will gladly take old clothes for resale in thrift outlets.

Guttorm Raknes

Maintenance of a natural grass lawn consumes up to 56,000 gallons of water annually and contributes to both air and water pollution. But artificial turf, like that pictured here, originates as petroleum-derived plastic and is no friend to local ecology either.

While all that's going on, the environmentally-conscious mover would also want to be hoarding bubble wrap, cardboard boxes, padded envelopes and other packing materials instead of going out and buying them new. Many liquor, grocery, hardware and other retail stores are happy to give away large cardboard boxes they no longer need and would have to otherwise discard or recycle.

Rent-a-Crate, which has 13 U.S. locations coast to coast, rents re-usable (though not recycled) plastic moving crates that they'll deliver to and pick up from any location. The company works extensively in the office relocation business, too, and rents other reusable accessories such as dollies for rolling heavy crates and crates for delicate items like computers and even medical x-ray films.

When preparing to leave your place, use eco-friendly cleaning products. Health food stores all carry green cleaners that you can use yourself or instruct hired help to use.

A tip from the Care2 "Green Moving Guide": File a temporary change of address with your post office rather than a permanent one to cut down on junk mail at the new place. The U.S. Postal Service sells lists of permanent address changes to direct marketers, but doesn't bother doing so with temporary addresses.

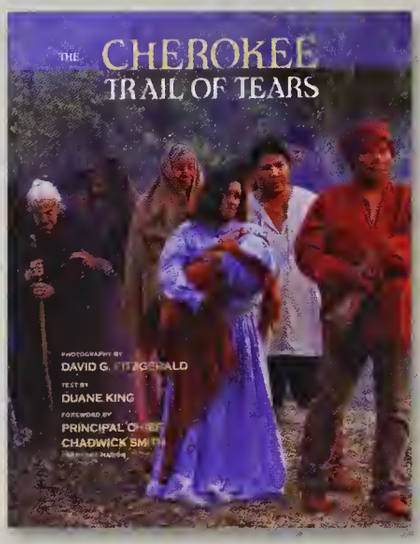
Contacts: Rent-a-Crate, www.rentacrate.com, 800-427-2832; Care2 Green Moving Guide, www.care2.com/greenliving/green-moving-guide.html.

Got an Environmental Question?

Send it to: EarthTalk, c/o E/The Environmental Magazine, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; submit it at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/thisweek, or e-mail: earthtalk@emagazine.com. Read past columns at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/archives.php.

bookshelf

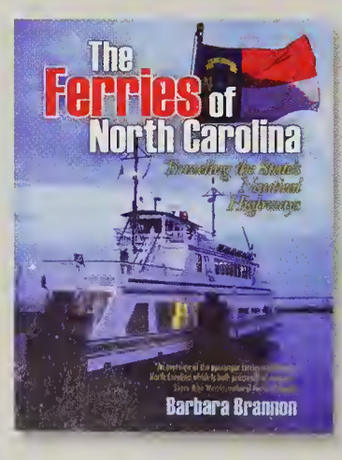
"Cherokee Trail of Tears"



In 1838, troops rounded up 15,000 Cherokees and imprisoned them in preparation for their removal from their native homelands in Southern Appalachia to the Indian Territory of present-day Oklahoma. Fifteen hundred died in confinement before the rest embarked on the forced exodus known as the Trail of Tears. The relocation of the Cherokees lasted two years and resulted in more than 5,000 deaths. Author Duane King and photographer David Fitzgerald trace the story along the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, which spans portions of nine states. Their photo-essay pays tribute to the 17 Cherokee detachments that were pushed westward into Oklahoma, with attention on historical and pertinent sites and journal excerpts. Published by Graphic Arts Books in Portland, Ore. Hardcover, 128 pages, $27.95.

(503) 226-2402
www.gacpc.com

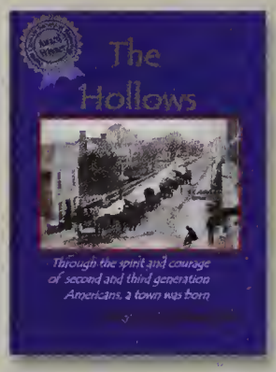
"The Ferries of North Carolina"



Did you know that two-car cable ferries still ply the waters of three rivers in North Carolina? Or that the state-operated system is the second largest in the U.S.? "The Ferries of North Carolina: Traveling the State's Nautical Highways" is a comprehensive guide to the state's public and private passenger and vehicle ferries. Seventeen coastal and river routes are described, covering waterways from the Cape Fear River to Currituck Sound. Each route includes directions to landings and information about schedules, fares, shore facilities and nearby accommodations and attractions. Original and historical photographs throughout show sites of interest, ferry operators and vessels, including the cable-guided ferry moving across the Meherrin River. Author Barbara Brannon also shares historical trivia, interviews, anecdotes and observations based on years of firsthand experience. Published by Winoca Press in Wilmington. Softcover, 192 pages, $16.95.

(910) 297-5108
www.winocapress.com

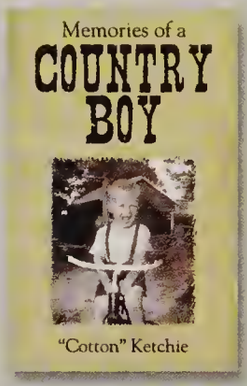
Mount Airy history



"The Hollows" is a researched look at the efforts of second and third generation Americans who settled into the Mount Airy area. The book's title refers to 144 square miles (not counting the part in Virginia) in the north central part of Surry County. For several generations, the Hollows were the edge of a frontier and anyone who settled there was a pioneer of sorts. Written by historian and former newspaper editor Barbara Case Summerlin, "The Hollows" includes maps, sketches, vintage photographs, anecdotes and excerpts from diaries, letters and newspaper articles. Published by Hickory Hill Publishing in Mount Airy. Hardcover, 265 pages, $45.

bsummerlin@triad.rr.com
(336) 786-4444

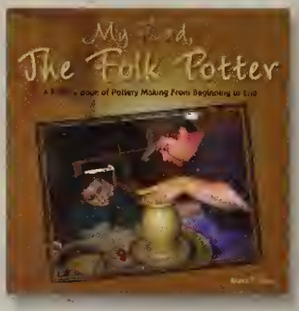
"Memories of a Country Boy"



Nationally known watercolor artist and EnergyUnited member "Cotton" Ketchie grew up in the country, north of Mooresville and near his grandmother's small farm. In his new book, he presents a collection of his down-home recollections of life as a country child of the 1950s. Chapter titles include "Cowboys and Indians," "Ice-Cold Watermelon," "Radio and Television," "Harvesting Grain," "Rabbit and Squirrel Hunting" and "Mischief at Grandma's." Ketchie also includes intermittent black and white photographs of friends, family and local haunts. Softcover, 263 pages, $17.95.

(877) 289-2665
www.buybooksontheweb.com

"My Dad, The Folk Potter"



Written from a child's perspective, "My Dad, The Folk Potter" explains the artful process of making pottery as it was crafted 200 years ago in the Catawba Valley. Through text and clear color photographs of a boy and a working potter, the book moves from digging and preparing clay to turning the pots, burning them in a wood-fired kiln and then selling the pieces at a kiln opening. Author Blaka Abee of Connelly Springs, a Rutherford EMC member, includes details that show and tell methods for making face jugs. Softcover, 54 pages, $20.99.

(888) 795-4274
www.xlibris.com

Now building in the Greater Hickory area!

WE build on YOUR lot, or on property you'd like to purchase.

- No downpayment
- We pay closing costs
- Land & Home financing
- No modular construction
- No construction loan interest

Madison Homebuilders
Charlotte, Conover & Columbia

For Our Free Brochure with Floor Plans
Call, Toll Free, the Sales & Design Center nearest you:

Charlotte, NC	Conover, NC	Columbia, SC
1-800-957-9304	1-866-847-6815	1-888-745-1011

Or visit us online at:
www.madisonhomebuilders.net

"Serving North Carolina's Mortgage Needs Since 1991"

HOMEOWNERS

Lock in a **Low Fixed Rate** Loan NOW!

LOWER YOUR PAYMENTS
REFINANCE NOW!

- Interest only Loans available
- Home Equity Loans • Get cash
- 2nd Homes • Self-Employed
- Combine bills into one payment
- Purchases

FIXED RATE 1ST MORTGAGES

AMOUNT	30 YEAR 6.25%*	15 YEAR 6.0%*
$75,000	$461.79	$632.89
$125,000	$769.65	$1,054.82
$200,000	$1,231.43	$1,687.71

North Carolina Residential Mortgagee Licensee #103146
Rates Subject to Change *30 yr. APR 6.49%, 15 yr. APR 6.32%
*Credit and collateral subject to qualification.

www.fedmort.com

FEDERATED MORTGAGE, INC.

APPLY BY PHONE OR ON-LINE AT www.fedmort.com

CALL (800)466-1635 TODAY

YOU KNOW YOU'RE IN

Carolina country if...

***...your huntin' dog** costs more than the truck you drive him around in.*

Michael Taylor

From Michael Taylor

... You know what a boxed pine is. (A pine tree that has cuts in the trunk to collect pine sap and tar.)

... You think that potted meat on a saltine is an hors d'oeuvre.

... The directions to your house include "turn off the paved road."

... You think that John Deere Green, Ford Blue, and Primer Gray are three of the primary colors.

... You have to cross the state line to buy real fireworks.

... You say "cut off" the light instead of "turn off" the light.

From Chasidy Williams, Elkin

... Your grandma washes her car in the rain for "free water."

... When you go to Wal-Mart you know just about everyone there.

... Over half the students in your high school are your cousins.

From Melissa Heath, Harrells

... You need to stob them maters with 'bakker sticks and party hoses.

... You dig them there taters with a tablespoon.

... You plant oakries.

... You tell your young'ns to get in the house right now or you'll tear their tails up.

... You don't work on Sunday unless the ox is in the ditch.

From Sharon Hardin, Rutherfordton

... Your grandpa says, "Let's go put our feet in that thar crik yonder."

... Your grandparents' big garden on a hill is full of their grown children and little grandchildren picking up taters barefooted.

... You look outside one snowy winter day and see your cousin riding a dirt bike on the road with another cousin tied behind him sliding down the road on an old car hood.

... Your grandparents met the preacher on the road and got married in a side ditch.

... When you're surprised, you say, "Law mercy!"

From Jill Lambert, Lexington

... You can still make a late night ice-cream run in your pj's up to the local store and actually meet someone doing the same.

... You've crawled under a shopper's car at Food Lion to help identify the source of their antifreeze leak.

... You dwindle away at least 40 hours a season squirrel-proofing your feeders.

... A piece of broken equipment is not fit for the landfill until it's passed through at least four neighbors to pick it for parts.

... Your mama still believes you don't smoke or drink, but your father has always assumed otherwise.

From Betsy Herron, Wadesboro

... As a preacher, you work on your sermon while in a deer stand.

... Your wife feeds deer meat to the visiting revival preacher, but she doesn't let on that's what it is, even when he asks for seconds.

... You have prayed with someone while working in your garden.

... You don't have preachin' on the fifth Sunday because you serve at least three churches on your charge.

... Your church has a sangin' to raise funds for someone in need.

... You have funeralized someone who passed away.

... Your men's group fixes chicken and dumplin's for a fundraiser.

... Your women's group has pounded someone in your church.

... Your parsonage is within 50 yards of a turkey farm.

... You travel through three counties to visit folks in the hospital for surgery.

... A parishioner gives you a gallon of homemade scuppernong wine and wants to know if you can use it for communion.

From Iris Gentry, Lowgap

... You go to the Surry-Yadkin Electric Membership meeting in October and get a refund check and a ticket that might win you a nice prize.

From Lakola Cook, Shannon

... To help someone is to "hope" them.

... Those sand nants will eat you alive.

... When the woods catch "far," you don't call the fire department, you run those buckets down yonder.

From Jeremy and Heather King, Mount Olive

... Your husband and two of his cousins have the same middle name.

... Your wife ain't afraid to bait her own hook or take the fish off.

... The whole family gets together to pick ice taters.

... Your Granny chased you with a fly swatter.

... When all the family gets together you do a little pickin' and grinnin'.

From Jami Chambers, Bear Grass

... You know the Cypress Grill in Jamesville has the best herring around.

... You refer to Washington, N.C., as Little Washington.

If you know any that we haven't published, send them to:

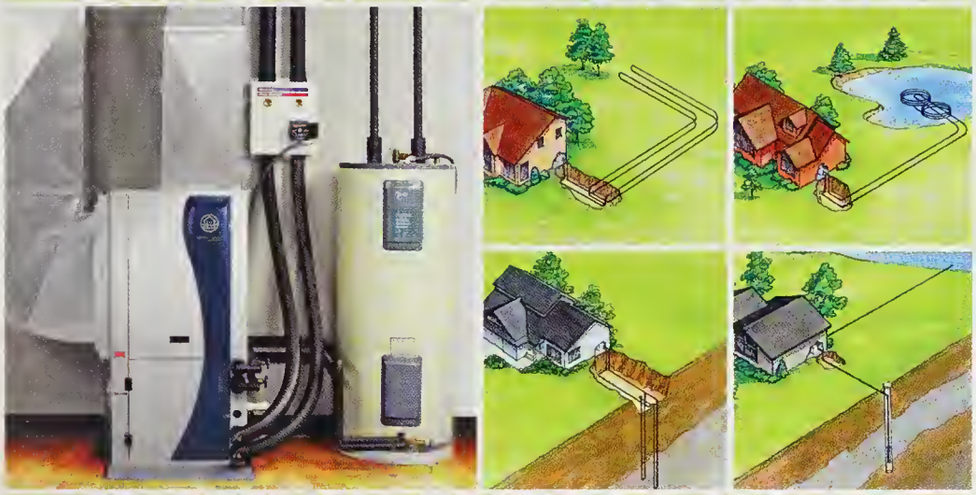
E-mail: editor@carolinacountry.com

Mail: P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611

Web: www.carolinacountry.com

GO ONLINE See more on our Web site.

SAVE UP TO 70% WITH



GEOTHERMAL HEATING & COOLING

Today, hundreds of thousands of **smart homeowners are saving up to 70%** in heating, cooling and hot water costs using WaterFurnace geothermal comfort systems. The WaterFurnace system taps into the **free and renewable** supply of constant earth temperatures found in your own backyard to provide **superior heating and cooling performance at a fraction of the cost**. And with additional benefits like no outdoor unit, and safe, clean, quiet, reliable operation, a WaterFurnace geothermal unit makes a typical furnace and air conditioner seem, well... just plain ordinary. Make the **smart move** to geothermal by calling your local WaterFurnace Dealer today.

Apex
Evangelist Service Company
(919) 362-7810

Asheville
Bullman Heating & Air
(828) 658-2468

Charlotte
Singleton Htg & AC
(704) 394-3933

Fleetwood
Scott Brothers Htg. & AC
(336) 877-1702

Jacksonville
Climate Control Heating & Cooling
(910) 353-9040

Troutman
SHA Mechanical
(704) 872-8708

Waynesville
Haywood Htg. & AC
(828) 452-2235

West End
4 Seasons Htg. & AC
(910) 235-0606

Wilmington
O'Brien Service Company
(910) 799-6611

Winston Salem
Logan Htg & AC
(336) 924-4961

WaterFurnace
Smarter from the Ground Up™

visit us at ***waterfurnace.com***

WaterFurnace is a registered trademark of WaterFurnace International, Inc.

FOR THE TOUGHEST JOBS ON PLANET EARTH.™

From building, to creating, to repairing and more.

1-800-966-3458 • GORILLATAPE.COM

© 2007 The Gorilla Glue Company. T6HD

Fund Raising

Your non-profit club, team, church or school works directly with the manufacturer to make great profits. Your customers receive a tremendous value on kitchen knives, utensils and gift sets while supporting your cause.

Rada Cutlery's reputation for Made in the USA quality is well known. We have made and sold 100,000,000 items since 1948! Our proven fund raising system guarantees your success.

Request your **FREE** catalog and information packet:

1-800-311-9691

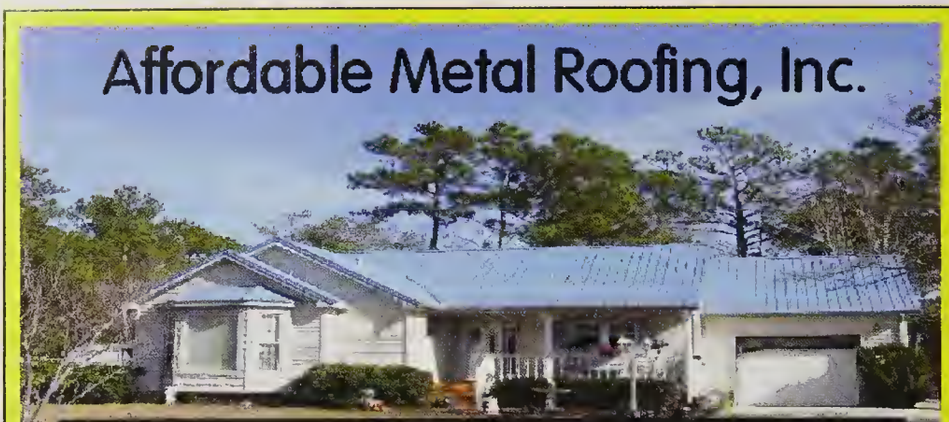
or **www.RadaCutlery.com**

NOTE: Dept **A07R01**

Find out why our customers say that "Rada knives sell themselves!"

RADA CUTLERY
"A Cut Above The Rest"

Affordable Metal Roofing, Inc.



100% FINANCING . NO MONEY DOWN

* we form our own metal
* no middle man
* buy direct ~ huge savings
* FREE ESTIMATE

800.505.3241 **910-840-2230**

Raleigh, NC * Little River, SC * Tabor City, NC

Best Prices - Best Buildings.

The extra space you need — at a price you can afford!

U.S.Buildings

Save thousands on: 25'x30', 30'x60', 35'x54' & More!

Garages
Workshops
Storage
Agriculture
Hobbies

1-800-405-7501

www.us-buildings.com

CAROLINA COUNTRY

Reflections

Looking at the way we were

A book of more than 200 photographs showing life in rural North Carolina before 1970. Scenes of family life, farms, working, special gatherings, fun times and everyday life. Each picture has a story that goes with it.

Now's your chance to own this popular book at a discounted price. Only $35 (tax included) Free Shipping! Carolina Country Reflections makes a unique gift. Limited quantities.

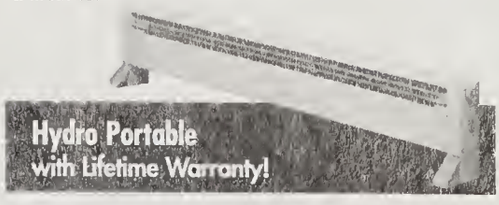
Order Online at: www.CarolinaCountry.com

Families Have Saved Hundreds of Dollars On Heating Costs

And never have to buy fuel — wood, oil, gas, kerosene — ever again!

Hydro-Sil is a duct-free/furnace-free high performance room-by-room heating system that can save you hundreds of dollars in home heating costs by replacing old and inefficient heating. It can replace or supplement your electric heat, gas or oil furnace and woodstoves.

Hydro-Sil represents economy in heating: inside the heater is a sealed copper chamber filled with a harmless silicone fluid heated by a high-performance, proportional watt element. It's designed to last a lifetime.



Your Benefits with Hydro-Sil:

- Slosh heoting cost with energy soving technology
- Lifetime worronty. No service contracts
- Sofe, complete peoce of mind
- Cleon, no fumes, environmentolly sofe
- U.L. listed
- Preassembled — reody to use
- No furnoces, ducts, or chimneys
- Portoble (110V) or permonent (220V)
- Whole house heating or single room

Here's what others are saying...

- F. Smalley – "A company that advertises the truth saved me 50% compared to my gas heat. I found it hard to believe until my power bill came. Thanks a million!"
- R. Hanson – "I can't begin to tell you how pleased I am with Hydro-Sil...the first time in 25 years our electric bill was reduced... saved $635, over 40%!"
- A. Gonsalves – "We replaced 20 electric heaters with Hydro-Sil. Wow — what a difference! We received a substantial reduction of our electric bill. I have recommended Hydro-Sil to many people!"

ORDER TODAY!

2 MODELS TO CHOOSE FROM

PORTABLE OR PERMANENT – YOUR CHOICE!

220 VOLT PERMANENT	Approx. Area to Heat	Discount Price	Quantity
8' 2000 watts	250-300 s.f.	$309	
6' 1500 watts	180-250 s.f.	$279	
5' 1250 watts	130-180 s.f.	$259	
4' 1000 watts	100-130 s.f.	$229	
3' 750 watts	75-100 s.f.	$189	
2' 500 watts	50-75 s.f.	$169	
Thermostats	Call for options & exact heater needed		

110 VOLT PORTABLES (Thermostat Included)	Discount Price	Quantity
5' Hydro-Max 750-1500 watts	$229	
4' Convector – Dual watt	$179	
3' 750 watts – Silicone	$179	
$18.00 shipping per heater	$	
Total Amount	$	

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ St_____ Zip_____

Phone_____

MasterCard or Visa Account Information:

Acct #_____

Expiration Date_____

Order today or contact us for more info.

Check ■ MasterCard ■ Visa

1-800-627-9276

www.hydrosil.com

Hydro-Sil, P.O. Box, 662, Fort Mill, SC 29715

Berry Towne Crafts

Berry Towne Crafts, an artisan program for persons with developmental difficulties, sells clothing, hats, hand-thrown pottery, organic lotions and oils, ornaments, dried flower arrangements and handmade wares. The crafts' creators live at the O' Berry Center, a cluster of group homes in Goldsboro that houses 300 individuals. The Center, part of North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, has been providing care to individuals with mental and physical challenges for more than 50 years. Items include decorative tins of roasted pecans harvested from groves on site and clothing featuring the Center's name and logos—"Hand in Hand" and "A Tradition of Excellence." Hats and caps sell for $10.95, women's V-neck cotton shirts for $18.95 and men's Pima cotton pique golf shirts for $23.95. Prices start at $8.95 for the pecan tins. In addition to its Web site the program maintains a well-stocked retail store on campus, open Monday through Friday.

(919) 581-4551
http://store.berrytownecrafts.com

Natural charcoal

Original Charcoal Company, based in Charlotte, sells a wide array of 100 percent natural hardwood products for grilling, including All-Natural Hardwood Lump Charcoal, All-Natural Smoking Chips, All-Natural Cedar Grilling Planks and grilling kits. Unlike most chemical-laden briquettes, Original Charcoal contains no fillers or construction scrap. Its mesquite and hickory chips and lumps don't impart a chemical flavor, and act to enhance the true flavor of foods. Any unburned charcoal can be reused for more than one grilling, and won't be ruined if rained upon due to its carbonized texture. Its natural wood ash contains calcium carbonate and potassium and is a natural soil supplement when spread on flowerbeds, lawns and compost piles. Products can be found in North Carolina at Home Depots, Costcos, Lowes Foods and other select stores. Suggested retail prices range from $2.50 to $25, depending on the item.

(704) 442-5456
www.originalcharcoal.com

Carolina Country Store features interesting, useful products, services, travel sites, handicrafts, food, books, CDs and DVDs that relate to North Carolina. To submit an item for possible publication, e-mail editor@carolinacountry.com with a description and clear, color pictures. Or you can submit by mail: Country Store, Carolina Country, 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, NC, 27616. Those who submit must be able to handle large orders.

Chemical-free pet products

Pet Botanica offers a full line of organic and hypoallergenic grooming and household products for pets. Products include conditioning shampoos with oatmeal to leave coats soft and smooth, and aromatherapy dog mists to freshen coats and bedding. Household products include Pet Laundry Wash, made from coconut and a soy-based fabric softener to brighten and soften pet bedding and towels. Pet Botanica also sells a CD with digitally enhanced instrumental music mixed with nature sounds intended to soothe pets who sit home alone. Stores in North Carolina that sell Pet Botanica products include PETCO and select Whole Foods stores, and you can purchase products online. A 2-ounce bottle of Powder Puff or Tuff Ruff (for the macho dog) with atomizer is $7.95 each. An 8-ounce bottle of Jojaba Chamomile shampoo, with a flip top, is $11.95. The CD, "Companion Music—Vol. 1," is $10.95. Gift sets are also available.

(877) 284-3620
www.petbotanica.com

Personalized prayer planning

Based in Richfield, Joy Crafts sells gifts made personal with names in calligraphy. The family-owned business has three styles of 11-by-18-inch wall calendars trimmed in wood and personalized with a family name. Sayings include "Treasure Each New Day," and there are special designs for grandparents, parents and teachers. Joy Crafts also sells eight styles of two-year pocket planners. Each planner is 3.5-by-7 inches with a plastic cover. Other products include purse-sized telephone and address books, as well as matted prints of prayers and blessings. Calendars are $6.95 and planners are $4.95 each.

(704) 637-5742
www.joycrafts.com

Plant-based medicinal remedies

A new DVD series based on educating people about folklore remedies in the wild is available. In "Backyard Remedies," Blue Ridge Electric member Patricia Shields takes viewers on a walk through woods, fields and creeks to learn about plant-based medicinal remedies and foods. On Disk 1, Shields looks at 51 trees, plants or herbs, including lemon balm, bloodroot, spearmint, white clover and dewberry, and discusses "almost lost" knowledge. Disk 2 covers 42 more, including Indian cucumber, black haw, maidenhair fern and alumroot. Viewers learn what plants look like, where they grow, what parts to use and the medicinal purposes of many. She plans on making more disks available soon. Each disk is $12, plus $3 shipping for one or all combined, and available through a natural food and health store in Murphy. Send checks or money orders to The Whole Store, 5635 Highway 64 West, Murphy, NC 28906.

(866) 639-8915

BUILT TO LAST
AND PRICED TO SELL...

Compare our everyday price for our 25'x40' building:

$4,990 FRONT END OPTIONAL

- EASY DO IT YOURSELF
- 30-YEAR WARRANTY
- 100% USEABLE SPACE

• Many sizes, shapes & applications! • Tough, rugged building – lasts! • Heavy gauge Galvalume steel • Easy to finish trussless interior • Totally maintenance free!

PIONEER STEEL BUILDINGS GO FACTORY DIRECT
800-668-5422
www.pioneersteel.com 26 YEARS OF REPUTATION BUILT OF STEEL

KENTUCKY STEEL TRUSS BUILDINGS INC.®
FREE CATALOGUE
1-859-745-0606
www.kstbuild.com

20/90	
24x30x8	$4,595
30x36x8	$5,595
40x48x10	$9,295
50x60x12	$14,495
60x80x12	$20,695
75x80x14	$27,595

New Look! The Hobsteel
AMERICA'S BEST BUY since 1986

*Prices subject to change without notice
FARM • CHURCH • SPORTS • HORSE • CAR • PLANE
ALL STEEL • ALL COLOR • 25/50 WARRANTY

MOBILE HOME ROOF PROBLEMS?
PERMA-ROOF®
from Southern Builders
The Mobile Home Roofover Specialist Can Help!

LIFETIME WARRANTY
ONE FOOT OVER-HANG
NO MORE ROOF RUMBLE
COMMERCIAL GRADE STEEL
2"or 3" FOIL BACKED INSULATION
CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE!
www.roofover.com
1-800-633-8969

Farm • Industrial • Commercial
25 Year Warranty on Roof & Walls;
Prices F.O.B. Mfg. Plants;
Seal Stamped Blue Prints;
Easy Bolt Together Design.
PRICES INCLUDE COLOR SIDES & GALVALUME ROOF

30' x 50' x 10'	$7,999
40' x 60' x 12'	$10,600
60' x 100' x 16'	$24,985
80' x 100' x 16'	$32,250
100' x 150' x 16'	$55,485

Arena Special (roof & frame) 100' x 100' x 14'...$32,490
(Local codes may affect prices)

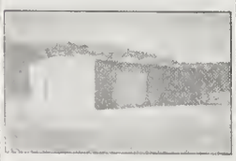
VISIT OUR WEBSITE **RHINO®** VISIT OUR WEBSITE
STEEL BUILDING SYSTEMS
Fax: 940-484-6746 email: info@rhinobldg.com
Website: http://www.RHINOBLDG.COM
Toll Free **1-888-320-7466**

ADVANTAGE
STEEL BUILDINGS, INC.
For The Best Building Package
At the Absolute Lowest Prices
Call Today (877) 657-8335
Or go Online At
www.advantagesteelbuildings.com

30x50x10	$ 6,290.00
40x60x12	$ 8,975.00
50x75x14	$13,547.00
80x120x16	$32,133.00

We Also Have Mini-Storage Packages
All Sizes Including Climate Control

Arco Quality Steel Buildings
1-800-241-8339



ARCO Building Systems has been named by Metal Construction News as the 3rd largest builder of metal buildings in the United States. We offer, *Direct to the Consumer*, the highest Quality all steel buildings available, as well as the Engineers to answer all your questions. With ARCO, you receive the most attractive, maintenance free building on the market with the service to match.

People who know buy ARCO

40X60X12	$ 9,920
50X75X10	$ 13,523
60X100X12	$ 19,981
60X75X12	$ 15,672
50X100X12	$ 16,920
100X100X12 w/column	$ 34,872
100X150X14 w/column	$ 49,683

FOB Plant-All sizes available-Local codes may affect prices
20'X100'X8'6".....Mini Warehouse.....$ 9,815

25 Arco Years
Arco Building Systems, Inc.
Visit us at our web-site...www.arcosteel.com

PREMIER BUILDING SYSTEMS
1-800-882-5150 (770) 239-2085
PBS

The more you look, The better we look!

30x40x10	$6,229
50x60x12	$11,765
60x100x12	$20,450
100x150x16	$ 59,475

(Clear span)
Does not include freight tax, any construction cost. *Codes & market may affect prices.
ALL SIZES AVAILABLE
26 GA., 20 YEAR WARRANTY ROOF & WALLS
MINI WAREHOUSES AVAILABLE
20 X 100 X 8'-6"... $8,299
Custom Quality Steel Buildings at Discount Prices!
www.premierbuildings.com

Miss Fitts

Domi-no.S

	C	A	R	P			O	T	E	P	T	6 M
				X	R					X	3 H	
3 H	A	R	R	Y			P	O	T	T	E	R

We've got HARRY POTTER'S number. Given M=6 and H=3, can you figure it out? Each letter stands for a digit. Repeated letters stand for repeated digits. Letter values are the same in both of these multiplication problems. Go figure!

And then I read

The chemical DEET is the most powerful repellent for warding off pesky **misquotes** and other things.

—*Asheville Citizen-Times*, June 16

In political campaigns, let us spray.

For answers, please see page 34.

Math Wirdz

GET out of HERE!

Each letter in this division puzzle stands for a digit. Repeated letters stand for repeated digits. Given R=3, can you replace the digits?

```
          G  E  T
        ------------
   R  | H  E  R  E
   3  | _  _  3  _
        H  G
        -------
        _  _
           O  R
           _  3
           O  H
           -------
           _  _
              O  E
              -------
              O  E
```

UNSCRAMBLIT

The man who doesn't

R___ ____ _____ has
ecus rlls nllmt

no advantage over the

man who can't

____ ___M.
ecus iacb

—Mark Twain

Use the capital letters in the code clue below to fill in the blanks above.

"ABDEGHKMOR TS" means
unscramble it

© 2007 Charles Joyner

Walk-In Tubs
The TUB you WALK IN to!
Full Hydrotherapy to bathe in comfort!
800-903-8095
bocawalkintubs.com

40' x 60' x 12'
$10,294
A Legacy Built To Last
HERITAGE BUILDING SYSTEMS®
1.800.643.5555
www.heritagebuildings.com

LOWEST COST
Term Life Insurance
Issue ages through 90

AGE	$100,000	$250,000
45	12.78	22.75
55	16.19	31.28
65	31.06	68.47

Rates figured on monthly cost for female non-tobacco users.
RAMLET & ASSOC, INC.
(800) 933-6354
TALIC FORM NO. 1-32207-198

HEATMOR
Stainless Steel Outdoor Wood Furnaces

Heat Multiple Buildings, Pools, Hot Tubs, Hot Water Tank, Barns, Shop, Garage, Greenhouses, Poultry Houses, Residential & Commercial

5 Sizes, 18 Colors, Wood or Coal Grates, Ash Auger Clean Out, Corn, Pellet, Oil Options, Efficient Combustion Design, Ultimate Warranty, Environmentally Friendly

Outback Heating, Inc.
Eastern U.S. Distributor
Outdoor Furnaces Since 1982
800-743-5883 888-763-8617
www.outbackheatinginc.com

JOYNER'S CORNER ANSWERS:
Domi-No.S
4985x8=39880 172576x3=517728
CARPxR=HARRY OTEPTMxH=POTTER
Math Wirdz
HERE/R=GET
1737/3=579
Unscrablit
READ GOOD BOOKS...
READ THEM.

CHOIR ROBES
EXPERT TAILORING **$35.95 & UP**
Finest fabrics including permanent press and wash & wear. Superior quality. Free color catalog and fabric swatches on request.
GUARANTEED SATISFACTION
Call Toll Free: 1-800-826-8612
REGENCY CAP & GOWN CO.
www.rcgown.com
P.O. Box 8988-N Jacksonville, FL 32211

Slow Credit? Call Today!
NEW RATES FROM 1.25%
You'll reach real people who can get you real results in consolidating high cost debt into one affordable monthly payment.

Real People...Real Results!

LOAN EXAMPLES

SAMPLE LOAN	PAYMENT	TERM	RATE*	APR
$50,000	$244.79	HM EQTY	5.875**	6.77%
$100,000	$591.54	30 YR. Fixed	5.87*	6.04%
$150,000	$887.31	30 YR. Fixed	5.87*	5.99%
$200,000	$1,104.41	5 YR ARM	5.25***	5.39%
$200,000	$666.50	Power Arm	1.25***	6.52%

Fixed Rate conforming loans for 70 LTV rate/term refinance/purchase transactions. **Interest Only home equity loan, 80 LTV. Interest only payments for up to 10 years. Principle payments can be made at any time without penalty. ***APM conforming 70 LTV rate/term refinance/purchase transactions. Power Arm payment adjusts annually while rate adjusts monthly. All rates and terms subject to differ as market conditions change. Other Rates, Terms and Products available. Call about Cash Out, Debt Consolidation, JUMBO Loans and more.

- Refinance • Debt Consolidation • Home Improvements
- Not So Perfect Credit • No Income Verification
- Previous Bankruptcy OK

Go to the Source
EquiSource
HOME MORTGAGE CORPORATION
Applications Taken 24 Hours a Day 7 Days A Week!
1-800-372-2570 • Apply Online - www.equisourcehome.com

Free yourself from high heating costs.
CLASSIC
Outdoor Wood Furnace
- 100% thermostatically controlled heat for your home and hot water.
- There is no safer, more efficient way to heat with wood.
- Exclusive Ripple Top®, HeatLock Baffle® for maximum efficiency.
- Options for Dual Fuel Ready models: Bio-Advantage™ Wood Pellet and Corn Power Burner, LP, NG or Fuel Oil Burner.

0 DOWN AND 0 PAYMENTS FOR 1 YEAR
CENTRAL BOILER
Find your nearest dealer at centralboiler.com
800-248-4681
Dual Fuel Ready and Stainless Steel models available.
Unsecured deferred first payment loans provided by EnerBank USA (1245 E. Brickyard Rd., Suite 640, Salt Lake City, UT 84106) to homeowners who meet bank's qualifications. Repayment terms vary from 15 months to 84 months based upon loan amount. APR varies from 9.98% to 20.13% based upon loan amount, repayment term, and creditworthiness of borrower as determined by bank. Interest rates effective July 1, 2007. Rates subject to change. Call 866-341-5400 for current rates. Unsecured deferred first payment loans available only through participating Central Boiler dealers. Limited time offer. ©2007 Central Boiler ad4408

September Events

The Wake Forest Area Artists' Studio Tour takes place Sept. 15–16 and Sept. 22–23 at Sunflower Studio and Gallery on East Jones Ave. Saturday tours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays are 1 to 5 p.m. Artist reception is Sept. 14 from 6 to 9 p.m. For more information, visit www.ArtistsStudioTour.com

MOUNTAINS

Street Dances
Mondays, Hendersonville
(800) 828-4244
www.historichendersonville.org

Hot Nights & Hot Cars Cruise In
First Sat. through Oct. 6, Pilot Mountain
(336) 368-4850

N.C. Apple Festival
Aug. 31–Sept. 3, Hendersonville
(800) 828-4244
www.historichendersonville.org

Hickory Nut Gorge Olympiad
Sept. 6–9, Lake Lure
(828) 429-9011
www.hickorynutolympiad.com

Hike
Sept. 8, Chimney Rock Park
(800) 277-9611
www.chimneyrockpark.com

Library Book Sale
Sept. 8–9, Hendersonville
(800) 828-4244
www.historichendersonville.org

Museum Open House
Sept. 9, Lenoir
(828) 758-4004
www.caldwellheritagemuseum.org

Antique & Artisan Show
Sept. 14–16, Spindale
(828) 288-4875

Daedalus Quartet
Sept. 16, Brasstown
(828) 389-0033
http://mapaa.org/html/bca.html

Johnson Farm Storytelling Festival
Sept. 21–22, Hendersonville
(828) 891-6585
www.historicjohnsonfarm.org

Waterfall Craft Sale
Sept. 21–22, Brevard
(828) 883-2029

Hawk Watch Hike
Sept. 23, Chimney Rock Park
(800) 277-9611
www.chimneyrockpark.com

Fall Festival & Auction
Sept. 29, Ebony, VA
(434) 636-5101

PIEDMONT

Farmers Market
Saturday mornings through Oct. 27, Wake Forest
(919) 556-1579
www.wakeforestmarket.org

Gem, Mineral & Jewelry Show
Through Sept. 3, Raleigh
(804) 746-7663

Free Day at Cape Fear Botanical Garden
Sept. 1, Fayetteville
(910) 486-0221
www.capefearbg.org

New Hope Valley Railway Rides
Sept. 2, New Hill
(919) 362-4516
www.visitpittsboro.com

The Tams Concert
Sept. 6, Fayetteville
(910) 485-5121
www.fayettevillemuseumart.org

Lafayette 250 Celebration
Sept. 6–8, Fayetteville
(910) 433-1549
www.lafayette250.com

Greek Festival
Sept. 7–9, Fayetteville
(910) 484-2010

Evaluation Extravaganza
Sept. 8, High Point
(336) 885-1859
www.highpointmuseum.org

Green Creek Heritage Festival
Sept. 8, Green Creek
(828) 863-4367

Potters Market Invitational
Sept. 8, Charlotte
(704) 365-6873
www.themintmuseums.org

NC Hot Sauce Contest
Sept. 8, Oxford
(866) 693-1217
www.sales@stovallsgifts.com

Fall Festival Craft Show
Sept. 8, Kernersville
(336) 993-7097

La Fiesta Del Pueblo
Sept. 8–9, Raleigh
(919) 835-1525

Pottery Fest
Sept. 8, Wake Forest
(919) 556-7864
www.freechildstudio.com

Aw Shucks! Corn Maze
Sept. 8–Nov. 18, Marshville
(704) 624-0699
www.AwShucksCornMaze.com

Blacks, Whites & American Popular Music
Sept. 12, Raleigh
(919) 807-7943
www.ncmuseumofhistory.org

Harvest Festival
Sept. 12–16, Clayton
(919) 934-7188

Cumberland County Fair
Sept. 13–23, Fayetteville
(910) 438-4140
www.cumberlandcountyfair.org

World War I—In The Trenches
Sept. 14, Averasboro
(910) 483-0768
www.averasboro.com

Big Lick ATV Drag Races
Sept. 14–15, Oakboro
(704) 485-4906
www.hinsonauction.com

Dublin Peanut Festival
Sept. 15, Dublin
(910) 648-2862

Artists' Studio Tour
Sept. 15 & 16, Wake Forest
www.ArtistStudioTour.com

Moonlight & Starlight Paddles
Sept. 15, Jordan Lake
(919) 949-4315
www.visitpittsboro.com

Grape Jam—Wine & Music Festival
Sept. 15, Dobson
(336) 374-2532
www.blackwolfvineyards.com

Celebrating Agriculture
Sept. 15, Dobson
(336) 401-8025

BugFest
Sept. 15, Raleigh
(919) 733-7450
www.naturalsciences.org

Day in the Park
Sept. 15, Jamestown
(336) 885-1859

Boll Weevil Jamboree
Sept. 15, Marshville
(704) 624-3183

Stokes Stomp Festival on the Dan
Sept. 15–16, Danbury
(336) 593-8159
www.stokesarts.org

Revolutionary War Reenactment
Sept. 15–16, Huntersville
(704) 875-2312
www.lattaplantation.org

Mule Days
Sept. 20–23, Benson
(919) 894-3825
www.johnstoncountync.org

Peter Eckstron's Musical Revue
Sept. 20–Oct. 7, Fayetteville
(910) 678-7186
www.gilberttheater.com

Antique Show
Sept. 21–22, Selma
(919) 965-9659
www.johnstoncountync.org

Ruritan Truck & Tractor Pull
Sept. 21–22, Pittsboro
(919) 742-4881
www.visitpittsboro.com

Big Lick Antique Festival & Gun & Knife Show
Sept. 21–23, Oakboro
(704) 485-4906
www.hinsonauction.com

Southern Ideal Home Show
Sept. 21–23, Raleigh
(800) 849-0248
www.SouthernIdealHomeShow.com

Festival of Art, Wine & Cars
Sept. 21–23, Winston-Salem
(336) 997-8071
www.concoursdegraylyn.com

Quilt Show
Sept. 21–23, Lincolnton
(704) 435-6198

Artists' Studio Tour
Sept. 22–23, Wake Forest
www.ArtistStudioTour.com

Wool Carding & Spinning
Sept. 22–23, High Point
(336) 885-1859
www.highpointmuseum.org

Fall Festival & Car Show
Sept. 22, Youngsville
(919) 556-4026
www.youngsvillefallfestival.com

Gospel Sing
Sept. 22, Clinton
(910) 592-5132

Gun & Military Antiques Show
Sept. 22–23, Raleigh
(704) 282-1339
www.TheCarolinaTrade.com

"Tartuffe," by Moliere
Sept. 27–29, Fayetteville
(910) 672-1724
www.uncfsu.edu

FarmPark Bluegrass Festival
Sept. 27–29, Denton
(336) 859-2755
www.dentonbluegrass.com

Fourth Friday Gallery Crawl
Sept. 28, Fayetteville
(910) 323-1776
www.theartscouncil.com

Antiques Festival
Sept. 28–29, Liberty
(336) 622-3040

Mozart "The Marriage of Figaro"
Sept. 28–29, Raleigh
(919) 733-2750
www.ncsymphony.org

Nellie Allen Smith Pottery Competition
Sept. 28–Oct. 24, Fayetteville
(910) 433-2986
www.capefearstudios.com

Junker's Mill Concert
Sept. 29, Mocksville
(336) 751-2259

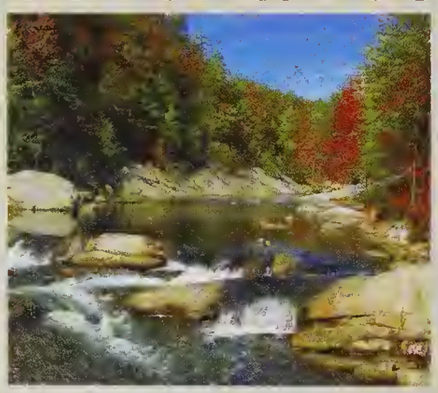
Jazz on the River
Sept. 29, Fayetteville
(910) 483-5311
www.wfss.org

Faith Festival
Sept. 29, Smithfield
(919) 934-0887
www.johnstoncountync.org

Ava Gardner Fest
Sept. 29–30, Smithfield
(919) 934-5830
www.johnstoncountync.org

International Folk Festival
Sept. 30, Fayetteville
(910) 323-1776
www.theartscouncil.com

CAROLINA COUNTRY
adventures



Wilson Creek was designated recently as a Wild and Scenic River. There's beauty and recreation here year-round for all ages and skill levels.

Caldwell County
Blue Ridge EMC territory

Tucked along the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Caldwell has four distinct seasons in which to enjoy the area's refreshing natural beauty. Visual and performing arts are long-time legacies here, and opportunities for both abound. In Lenoir, you can enjoy 13 outdoor sculptures placed among restaurants, shops and crafts stores. The sculptures are changed out every six months, and visitors see everything from an iron pea pod to a 7-foot-tall banjo player. Or take a hike through Tuttle Educational State Forest, a 290-acre outdoor classroom with talking trees and nature exhibits. Furniture shopping is a year-round attraction in Caldwell, with 20 miles of furniture stores beckoning between Lenoir and Hickory. Tough Enough Rodeo has chute doggin', barrel racing and pole bending, and over in Hudson the Tri-County Motor Speedway features stock car races. Coffey's General Store in Edgemont sells antiques and offers early 1900 town photos. Sims Country BBQ in Granite Falls serves up Texas-style barbecue, live bluegrass music and a whomping good clogging team. The county's calendar for September includes the Indoor/Outdoor Sculpture Celebration on Sept. 8 and Fort Defiance Living History Days on Sept. 22–23.

Three top spots:

Antique Vending Company Museum: This rare jewel in downtown Granite Falls contains one of the world's largest private collections of vintage soda machines. Visitors can see more than 700 vintage machines dating from 1925 into the 1970s, housed in a renovated textile mill. (828) 962-9783 or www.antiquevending.com

Wilson Creek recreational area: Surrounded by the Pisgah National Forest, this wild river draws outdoor enthusiasts. There are striking views of waterfalls and forest along 25 miles of wilderness trails. Fishermen can plumb the pristine waters for trout, and kayakers can plunge through rapids with names like Thunderhole. Cabins and camping available. The Wilson Creek Visitor Center is open through Nov. 30. (828) 759-0005 or www.friendsofwilsoncreek.org

Lenoir Cruise-In: A hub for classic car aficionados, the Cruise-In features between 200–400 cars along the streets of downtown Lenoir. Held on the first and third Saturdays of the month, May through November, this family event is free. www.lenoircruisers.com

Learn of other nearby adventures and events:
(828) 726-0323
www.caldwellcochamber.org

COAST

Dakkota, Country Music
Sept. 2, Roanoke Island
(252) 475-1500
www.roanokeisland.com

"Godspell," at Lost Colony
Sept. 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, Roanoke Island
(252) 475-1500
www.roanokeisland.com

Secret Garden Tour
Sept. 8, Wilmington
(910) 762-0492
www.latimerhouse.org

Art & Antique Walk
Sept. 8, Wilmington
(910) 251-0727
www.artandantiquewalk.com

Classic Car Show & Competition
Sept. 8, Scotland Neck
(252) 826-3152
www.townofscotlandneck.com

Indian Summer Festival
Sept. 8, Hertford
(252) 426-1425
www.historichertfordinc.org

Chicamacomico's American Heroes Day
Sept. 9, Rodanthe
(252) 987-1552
www.chicamacomico.net

Mike Palter & Lynne Jackson
Sept. 14, Oriental
(252) 249-3670

Autumn Area Craft Show
Sept. 14–15, Washington
(252) 946-6208
www.theblindcenter.org

Barrel Racing & Horsemanship Clinic
Sept. 14–16, Williamston
(903) 935-5358
www.barrelracers.com

Saddle Club Horse Show
Sept. 15, Williamston
(252) 459-8177

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Motorcycle Run
Sept. 22, Jacksonville
(910) 389-0004

African American History Day
Sept. 22, Wilmington
(910) 251-3700
www.bellamymansion.org

Horse Show
Sept. 22–23, Williamston
(252) 753-7780
www.nceha.com

Sunnyside Horse Show
Sept. 28–30, Williamston
(252) 799-0334
www.eastcoasthorses.com

Brewgrass Festival
Sept. 29, Wilmington
(910) 251-0727

Battleship Alive
Sept. 29, Wilmington
(910) 251-5797
www.battleshipnc.com

Model Railroad Show & Sale
Sept. 29–30, Wilmington
(910) 763-2634
www.wrrm.org

NOW SHOWING

A LISTING OF EXHIBITS

MOUNTAINS

"Women in Motorcycling History—1905–1955"
Through Fall 2007,
Maggie Valley, (828) 926-6266
www.wheelsthroughtime.com

Honor Our Veterans
Sept. 18–Nov. 14,
Kings Mountain
(704) 739-1019

PIEDMONT

Wild Music: Sounds & Songs of Life
Through Sept. 16, Raleigh
(919) 733-7450
www.naturalsciences.org

William Pajaud Exhibit
Sept. 14–Nov. 4, Fayetteville
(910) 485-5121
www.fayettevillemuseumart.org

"Brooklyn to Biddleville," Neighborhoods
Through Nov. 10, Charlotte
(704) 568-1774
www.charlottemuseum.org

American, European & Japanese Art
Through Dec. 2, Charlotte
(704) 337-2009
www.themintmuseums.org

"The Color Purple," Movie Display
Through Dec. 31, Marshville
(704) 517-5622

Buffalo Nation: Plains Indian Cultures
Through Dec. 31, Gastonia
(704) 866-6923
www.schielemuseum.org

Call to Duty
Through April 2008,
Fort Bragg, (910) 432-3443
www.bragg.army.mil/18abn/museums.htm

North Carolina in the American Revolution
Through June 2008, Raleigh
(919) 807-7900
www.ncmuseumofhistory.org

COAST

Henry Applewhite Photography
Sept. 2–Oct. 26, Roanoke Island
(252) 475-1500
www.roanokeisland.com

Listing Information

Deadlines:
For Nov.: Sept. 24
For Dec.: Oct. 24

GO ONLINE

Submit Listings Online:
Visit www.carolinacountry.com and click "See NC" to add your event to the magazine and/or our Web site. Or e-mail events@carolinacountry.com

TRY OUT THE ORIGINAL, PATENTED
DR® TRIMMER/MOWER
— ON YOUR ENTIRE PROPERTY FOR 6 MONTHS RISK-FREE!

PROFESSIONAL POWER DR FOR HOMEOWNERS

NEW Self-Propelled Model Available!

NOW 20% OFF!

- TRIMS faster, easier than hand-held trimmers.
- GLIDES on big, easy-rolling wheels.
- MOWS everything from whole lawns to waist-high grass — even when wet! Patented design is guaranteed not to wrap or tangle!
- CUTS BRUSH and saplings up to 3" thick with patented BEAVER BLADE™ option.

To learn how you can try it for 6 Months RISK-FREE...*Call TOLL-FREE*

1-877-200-6611

☑ YES! Please send me without obligation full free details of the original, patented DR® TRIMMER/MOWER including models, factory-direct prices, and special savings now in effect.

Name _____ CARC
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Email _____

DR® POWER EQUIPMENT, Dept. 59145X
127 Meigs Road, Vergennes, VT 05491

www.DRtrimmers.com

© 2007 CHP, Inc.

By Carla Burgess

Living fossils in the garden

For great vertical interest year-round and a unique garden conversation piece, you can't beat horsetails. They belong to the genus *Equisetum*, a family of prehistoric plants that staked a claim on Earth more than 100 million years before the dinosaur. The horsetail commonly called scouring rush (*E. hyemale*) has bright green, usually unbranched, hollow stems that are jointed, making it look a little like bamboo. The slender, upright stems, growing 3 to 6 feet tall, are the stars of the show, as the plant's leaves are inconspicuous and it doesn't produce flowers (like other ferns, it reproduces sexually via spores). In the garden, scouring rush can intertwine beautifully with other plants. But beware that it can be invasive, spreading by horizontal underground stems. When it finds optimal conditions, usually a moist spot in mostly sun, it can run rampant. You may wish to surround it with a barrier to keep its spread in check, place it in a site with average soil moisture, or use it in a planter. It can tolerate several inches of standing water and is a popular pond plant, but potted plants should be acclimated over several days by submerging them gradually into the water. Dwarf horsetails suitable for gardens include *E. scripoides*, which grows 6–8 inches, and *E. diffusum*, a 4-inch-tall darling. Sandy Mush Herb Nursery sells the horsetails mentioned here at its nursery in Leicester, as well as through the mail (www.sandymushherbs.com). Niche Gardens (www.nichegardens.com) is another North Carolina mail-order source.

Johnny jump ups

Few plants work harder to cheer us in the cooler months than pansies and their cousins, the violas (when pronouncing, think violet, not small violin). Violas, sometimes called miniature pansies or Johnny jump ups, are particularly vigorous. They are more cold-tolerant than the large-flowered pansy and generally have a longer blooming season. They can also take more shade. Though violas have smaller flowers than pansies, the blooms are more profuse, and the plants remain tidier with less deadheading. The traditional wild Johnny jump up has the familiar purple, yellow and white flower, but plant breeders continue to dazzle us with luscious color combinations. 'Sorbet Coconut Swirl' and 'Sorbet Lemon Swirl' look good enough to eat (and viola blossoms are edible, by the way). If the selection of bedding plants is limited in your area, you might try growing violas from seed in pots or flats. A large selection is available from www.2bseeds.com and www.swallowtailgardenseeds.com. For a real head-turner, try the iridescent 'Velour Blue Bronze'.

Irises, again

Late summer and fall-blooming irises provide a repeat of spring charm. These irises are known as repeat-blooming or remontant iris. The Reblooming Iris Society (www.rebloomingiris.com) describes more than 250 varieties, mostly bearded, but also Japanese, Siberian, and Louisiana irises, and gives links to suppliers. For additional information, visit www.bbg.org/gar2/topics/plants/2006su_irises.html.

The horsetail commonly called scouring rush has bright green, usually unbranched, hollow stems that are jointed, making it look a little like bamboo.

Hort shorts

- Butterfly lovers: Be on the lookout for caterpillars of your favorite "flying flowers." Check plants in the parsley family (carrot, parsley, dill, fennel) for black swallowtail caterpillars. Look for spicebush swallowtail caterpillars on sassafras and spicebush leaves. Scope out milkweed for monarchs. And inspect passionflower vines for gulf fritillaries. For help with caterpillar and butterfly I.D., check out "Stokes Butterfly Book: The Complete Guide to Butterfly Gardening, Identification, and Behavior."
- Give a helping hand to annual flowers that self-sow. Shake the stems vigorously to release the maximum amount of ripe seed. Or gather and scatter seeds elsewhere to increase your number of "volunteers" for next year.
- Evaluate your perennial beds now for spots that could use a fresh look. Pay attention to texture and form in addition to color.
- Don't fertilize perennials at this time of year so that plants can ready themselves for winter dormancy.

GO ONLINE
www.carolinacountry.com

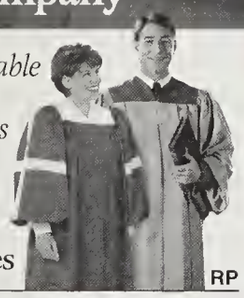
Carla Burgess can be reached at ncgardenshare@mindspring.com.

For more gardening advice, go to the "Carolina Gardens" section of www.carolinacountry.com.

Steel Building Sale
Factory Direct Lowest Prices For Any Size Building
Full Customer Service • "We Erect and Do Foundations"
Visit our website at www.totumsteel.com for complete information
For Free Quotes 1-800-869-0532
or e-mail: buildings@totumsteel.com
TATUM STEEL BUILDINGS CORP.

NURSERY STOCK & SEED
GROW HALF DOLLAR SIZE MUSCADINES & BLACKBERRIES, FREE CATALOG.
200 varieties fruit, nut trees, vines & berries.
1-800-733-0324. ISON'S NURSERY,
Brooks, Georgia 30205
www.isons.com

LEAF VACUUM CONVERSION KIT
Starting at $48.95 + tax + S&H
"Every Lawn Tractor can be a Leaf Vacuum"
www.LawnTractorLeafBag.com • 877-530-9084

Lyric Choir Gown Company
Beautiful, Durable Professionally Tailored Gowns

FREE catalog & fabric samples
RP
1.800.847.7977 • lyricrobes.com

You're Successful...

...But, wouldn't you like a partner who is an engineer, a marketing whiz, a flawless secretary, a master craftsman, and a certified accountant?
Dealership Opportunities Now Available
Wick Buildings by Wick Building Systems, Inc
Call Today! 800-356-9682
Visit us online at WickBuildings.com

Carolinas Best Log Homes

The Chickmaugan
1832 sq. ft.
Kiln-dried log kit
$28,400
Specializing in the manufacturing & construction of custom built log homes
1475 Fernwood Rd., York, SC
803-684-0459

Mobile Home Owners Protect Your Home Now!
Insulated Roofing Systems
- Stops Roof Leaks
- Stops Roof Condensation
- Stops Roof Rumble
- Maintenance Free

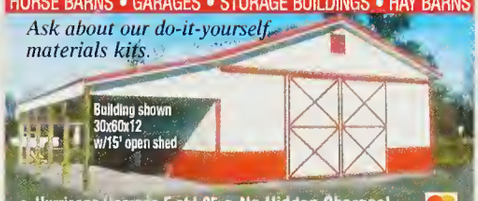
Premium Vinyl Siding
- Beautiful New Home Look
- Many Styles & Colors Available
- Adds Value to your Home
- FREE Window Shutters with Purchase

Vinyl Replacement Tilt-in Windows
- Easy to Clean
- Better Insulation

For a FREE No Obligation Estimate Call:
Mobile Home Exteriors
1-800-849-5715
www.mobilehomeexteriors.com
Lowers Heating & Cooling Bills
Guaranteed Lifetime Warranty
Financing available with approved credit
No Money Down — Affordable Payments

Ponderosa TRAILERS
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
Located in Newberry, S.C.

WE CAN CUSTOM ORDER W/DELIVERY IN 2 WEEKS!
16'-STOCK - $3595 • 16'-GOOSENECK - $4695
10'-TWO HORSE - $3950 • 20'-GN CATTLE - $5700
(All models listed are 2006 and in stock, with many colors to choose)
(803) 321-0119 • (803) 271-8109
www.ponderosotroilersofsouthcarolina.com

NATIONAL BARN COMPANY® LLC
$9,995
30X50X10
Painted Enclosed
FABRAL
HORSE BARNS • GARAGES • STORAGE BUILDINGS • HAY BARNS
Ask about our do-it-yourself materials kits.


• Hurricane Upgrade E of I-95 • No Hidden Charges!
• Fully Insured • Codes May Affect Prices
• Lifetime Steel Warranty • Prices include material, delivery & construction
• Custom Sizes Available
1-888-427-BARN (2276)
www.nationalbarn.com NC Lic. #52845

NEW TOW-BEHIND
DR® FIELD and BRUSH MOWER!
— ATTACHES TO YOUR ATV OR RIDING MOWER TO MOW FIELDS WHILE YOU RIDE!

- CLEAR OVERGROWN LAND *FAST* — 2 acres/hr with 44" wide cut!
- MOW WEEDS, BRUSH, even 1-1/2" thick saplings — with up to 17 HP of V-Twin power!
- OUTRIGGER™ TOW BAR cuts 100% outside the path of towing vehicle to mow along fences, under trees.
- REMOTE CONTROLS let you manage all blade, clutch, and engine functions from your towing vehicle!

Off-Season Savings Now in Effect!

Walk-behind DR® Brush Mower models also available!
MADE IN USA
CALL TOLL-FREE
1-877-200-6611
☑ YES! Please rush complete FREE DETAILS of new TOW-BEHIND and WALK-BEHIND DR® FIELD and BRUSH MOWERS including prices, specifications, and Factory-Direct Savings now in effect.
Name _____
Address _____ CARC
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Email _____
DR® POWER EQUIPMENT, Dept. 58809X
127 Meigs Road, Vergennes, VT 05491
www.DRfieldbrush.com
© 2007 CHP, Inc.

By James Dulley

How to build a fireplace fire

If you ask 100 old-timers the best method to build a fire that starts quickly and burns cleanly, you will likely get 100 different answers. There are many effective and efficient ways to lay a fire and get it started, but most have basic fire-building concepts in common.

First, have the fireplace and chimney inspected by a certified chimney sweep. Many houses are destroyed by fire each year from faulty or dirty chimneys. This is particularly true if you have had problems getting hot fires going in the past.

A smoldering fire creates flammable creosote, which builds up inside the chimney. When you build a very hot fire, the creosote can get hot enough to ignite inside the chimney. If the chimney is weak and leaky, the heat from the chimney fire can cause the adjacent house walls to ignite causing a potentially fatal house fire.

It helps to understand how cord wood (logs) burn in order to build a hot, clean-burning fire. When a log is put in a fire, the first step in combustion is moisture boiling out of the wood. Adding damp, unseasoned "green" wood, particularly a large log, can consume much of the existing fire's heat in this step.

Once the moisture content drops and the surface of the log gets hotter, the wood begins to break down, creating volatile gases. These gases burn and give off the visible light that you see as flames. The remaining charcoal glows red, which radiates heat out into the room and eventually becomes ash.

Observe a fire and inspect your fireplace to determine if fires have been burning properly. You should find some of the following signs. The logs continue to burn with flames until only charcoal remains. When you add new logs, they should ignite quickly. If there are light-colored firebricks (when new) in the firebox, they should become tan in color as you use the fireplace. Any steel or cast iron parts in the firebox should become medium brown. If you have newer air-wash glass doors, they should stay relatively clean.

Most methods to build a hot, long-burning fire use newspapers, kindling or fire starters, some softwoods, and mostly hardwoods. Newspapers can be used to start the fire and to get kindling burning. The kindling holds the flame long enough to get the softwoods and hardwoods burning.

The teepee and the English methods are two common ways to lay a fire. Both use newspapers under the andirons or grate. With the teepee method, place kindling or fire starters on end in the center. Place several logs on end to form a teepee. This method creates channels of hot gases rising up between the logs to quickly get them started. Once burning, additional logs can be added in any fashion.

Make decorative fire starters using cupcake papers, old candle wax, pine cones and a wick.

The English method is better when using andirons. Place two logs across the andirons. Place the kindling across these two logs, then place a third log on top of the kindling. It sometimes also helps to place a few pieces of kindling vertically down into the newspapers and up between the logs.

With any method of laying a fire, place some uncrumpled newspaper over the logs after the fire is laid. Before you light the newspapers under the logs, light the top newspaper sheets to create an upward chimney draft. Wait until the chimney is warm enough so that the smoke from these newspapers goes briskly up the chimney. Then light the newspapers under the logs from each side.

You may hear the term "back log." A back log is a large log laid at the back of the fireplace on the andirons or grate. It will eventually burn, but its main purpose is to keep the other burning logs on the andirons and to protect the firebrick from the intense heat. Also, the front surface of the back log should glow red, which radiates more heat directly out into the room.

There are several easy methods to make fire starters and newspaper logs. Fill condiment cups with sawdust and then pour in melted paraffin or old candle wax. For more decorative starters, place a pine cone in a cupcake paper, add a wick and fill it with candle wax. Newspaper logs can be made by wrapping sheets of newspapers around a broom handle, wetting them with a water/flour solution and allowing them to dry.

Send inquiries to James Dulley, Carolina Country, 6906 Royalgreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit www.dulley.com.

James Dulley is an engineer and syndicated columnist for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Business Opportunities

NEW! GROW EXPENSIVE PLANTS, 2000% Profit, Earn to $50,000, Free Information Growbiz, Box 3738-NC9, Cookeville, TN 38502–www.growbiz-abco.com

WATKINS SINCE 1868. Top Ten Home Business. 350 products everyone uses. Free catalog packet. 1-800-352-5213.

INVENTORS: We help try to submit ideas to industry. Patent services. InventHelp(sm) 1-800-INVENTION.

SAVE UP TO 75 CENTS A GALLON. Gas/Diesel www.savegassave.com 1-866-311-5258.

SCENTEO CANOLE LOVER'S OREAM Business! Be your own boss! Low to no start up cost. Don't miss this opportunity! 717-749-5158. www.earthglowcandle.com

Vacation Rental

VACATION CABIN in the mountains of Western North Carolina. Real chink logs, jacuzzi, fireplace and covered porch. No smoking–No pets. 828-627-6037. www.treasurecovecabins.com

BEACH HOUSE, Cherry Grove, SC. 4BR/2B, sleeps 14. 828-478-3208.

PIGEON FORGE, TN. CONOO RENTAL. Fully furnished with two bedrooms, two bathrooms, kitchen, living room, hot tub. Call 336-657-3025 or www.scenicvalleyproperties.com

ATLANTIC BEACH, NC. 3BR, 2BA, sleeps 6, $650/week. 252-240-2247 or 252-826-4797.

MYRTLE BEACH, OCEAN LAKES,–3BR, 2BA–Sleeps 9. Labor Day 8/31–9/3; $350.00. ½ off weekly rates after 9/4. 910-425-5704.

VACATION AT OUR PRIVATELY OWNEO MOUNTAIN GETAWAYS–overlooking the pristine waters of Helton Creek. Located in the Blue Ridge Mtns. on the NC/VA border (Ashe County/Grayson County). Private hot tubs! Browse our photo gallery to choose one of our custom-built Creekside Cabins. www.highmountaincabins.com 800-238-8733

EMERALD ISLE, NC–CAMP OCEAN FOREST Campground. Camping next to the ocean. Call for rates and reservations 252-354-3454. www.campoceanforest.com

CHANNEL BEACH HOUSE, Cherry Grove, SC. 4BR/3.5BA. 919-837-5423 or 919-548-6418. Very nice.

Build with NO MONEY DOWN!
(to qualified land owners)
Call for your FREE Plan Book
800-771-0614 Pennyworth Homes
pennyworthhomes.com *Got Land? Let's Build!*

The Original LOG CABIN HOMES
Cedar, Cypress & Pine Log Home Packages
1.800.562.2246
www.logcabinhomes.com

ATLANTIC BEACH,–EMERALO ISLE AREA. Nice, large 2BR, 2BA condominium in ocean front complex with pool. Sleeps 6, no smoking/pets. Rent by the week direct from owner and save! 540-480-4003.

NEW MOUNTAIN LOG CABIN, Near Boone, Lakefront, 4BR/3BA. 305-971-7091 or app_cnt@bellsouth.net

MYRTLE BEACH, 2BR, 1BA HOUSE. Sleeps six. $800/week., 336-956-4405 or 336-242-3003.

Real Estate

PASQUOTANK, PERQUIMANS CURRITUCK & CAMOEN. Facing Foreclosure, don't let the bank sell your house. Call 252-202-9848.

CASH FOR YOUR LANO!!! Whole or partial interest. Quick closings. Email: info@cashforyourland.net

CASH PAIO–I BUY OWNER FINANCEO MORTGAGE NOTES. Call today. Free Quote. 1-334-221-2086.

BUILO YOUR OWN NEW HOME...without a big down payment using our proven owner/builder program. If you're motivated w/$40K+income, call American Home Partners at 336-774-9011 or e-mail us–btaylorahp@yahoo.com

MAGGIE VALLEY, WESTERN NC. 2 bedroom, 1½ baths and 2 bonus rooms. Log Cabin house on .99 acre with a creek, 3500-4000 elevation on Sheepback Mountain–$239,000, currently vacation home. Lara 828-926-6070.

106 (+ OR -) ACRES. Heavy, uncut forest trees. New one mile road to river frontage. Timber estimated at $250,000. Located in Uwharrie National Forest near Eldorado, NC. Call for appointment 910-457-9513,

54 ACRES, 18 STALL BARN, fenced pastures, pond, updated home, $625,000. Call Cindy–704-460-1521.

Gold Maps

FUN, HOW TO PAN. Carolinas, Virginia, Georgia, Alabama, California. 1-321-783-4595. WWW.GOLDMAPS.COM

For Sale

USEO PORTABLE SAWMILLS! Buy/Sell. Call Sawmill Exchange 800-459-2148, 205-969-0007, USA & Canada, www.sawmillexchange.com

BAPTISTRY PAINTINGS–JOROAN RIVER SCENES. Custom Painted. Christian Arts, Goldsboro, NC 919-736-4166. www.christian-artworks.com

OAK CHURCH FURNITURE–Best prices. Pulpits–$795, Minister Chairs–$299 each, Chairs from $33, stained glass, pools, pews–www.worshipchairs.com 800-639-7397.

CIRCLE T BOER GOAT FARM–Boer goats for sale, many ennoblement bloodlines. www.circletboergoatfarm.com 704-986-6493.

"CAROLINA COUNTRY REFLECTIONS." More than 200 photographs showing life in rural North Carolina before 1970. Each picture has a story that goes with it. Hardcover, coffee table book, 160 pages. Only $35 (includes tax and shipping). Order online www.carolinacountry.com or call (919) 875-3091.

BAUCOM FOOTPRINTS IN CAROLINA by M.W. Baucom, genealogy of Baucom family from 1700's, 354 pages hardbound. To order, send $44 check or money order to S.B. Yandle, 4101 Old Pageland-Marshville Road, Wingate, NC 28174.

Miscellaneous

SUSPENDERS WITH PATENTED "No-Slip Clip". Free Catalog 800-700-4515–www.suspenders.com

PUT YOUR OLO HOME MOVIES or slides on videotape or DVD. 888-609-9778 or visit www.transferguy.com

BECOME AN OROAINEO MINISTER, Correspondence study. Founded in 1988. Luke 17:2, Free information. Ministers for Christ Outreach, 7549 West Cactus, #104-207, Peoria, AZ 85381. www.ordination.org

CHURCH PEWS/FURNITURE REFINISHED. New and used pews, steeples, stained glass, carpet. 910-525-4548 or www.commercialrefinishers.com

I BUY OLO OOOGE, PLYMOUTH MUSCLE CARS, Roadrunners, Cudas, Challengers, etc. 1965-1972 any condition. 336-874-7317.

23 PEOPLE NEEDEO TO LOSE 5–100 POUNDS! All Natural. 100% guaranteed. Free Samples! www.ThinnerYouToday.com or 888-200-6311.

PLAY GOSPEL SONGS BY EAR! 10 lessons $12.95. "Learn Gospel Music." Chording, runs, fills–$12.95. Both $24. Davidsons, 6727C Metcalf, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66204.

SAVE MONEY ANO INCREASE PROFITS through energy efficiency. Great for hotels, restaurants, laundries, nursing homes. Call Michael at Solar Vision, Inc. for free information on how we can help you business. 704-290-2092 or call 704-345-3789.

AERIAL ASH SCATTERING. Alternative to a traditional burial. 252-354-2233 or www.outerbanksairmemorials.com

BOOK TRAVEL WITH ME. Learn how to travel for less. www.ytb.com/funnettravel

WANT TO BUY OLO VOLKSWAGEN VANS from years 1967 and earlier (with the 2-piece windshield). Will buy any condition, partial or complete. 704-485-8875.

FREE OIABETIC TESTING SUPPPLIES/Delivered to your home. No cost to you if qualified. Includes new meter, strips, etc. Covered by Medicare/Medicaid & private insurance. Toll-free 1-866-282-1610 for details.

FREE MOTORIZED WHEELCHAIRS/LATEST MODELS! Regain your mobility! No cost to you if qualified. Covered by Medicare/Medicaid & private insurance. Toll-free 866-282-1610 for details.

The N.C. Association of Electric Cooperatives and its member cooperatives do not necessarily endorse the services and products advertised. Readers are advised to understand fully any agreement or purchase they make.

Peanut Butter Freezer Pie

- 1 package (8 ounces) fat-free cream cheese
- 3 tablespoons fat-free milk
- ⅔ cup confectioners' sugar
- ½ cup reduced-fat creamy peanut butter
- 1 carton (8 ounces) frozen reduced-fat whipped topping, thawed, divided
- ¾ cup miniature semisweet chocolate chips, divided
- 1 chocolate crumb crust (8 inches)

In a large mixing bowl, beat cream cheese and milk until smooth. Beat in confectioners' sugar and peanut butter. Refrigerate ½ cup whipped topping for garnish. Beat ½ cup whipped topping into peanut butter mixture; fold in remaining whipped topping. Set aside 8 teaspoons chocolate chips for garnish; fold remaining chips into filling.

Spoon filling into crust. Cover and freeze for 3–4 hours or until firm. Remove from the freezer 20 minutes before serving. Garnish each slice with 1 tablespoon whipped topping and 1 teaspoon chocolate chips.

Winning reader recipe

Party Treat

- 1 box graham crackers
- 2 sticks of margarine
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg, slightly beaten
- 1 cup of milk
- 1 cup flaked coconut
- 1 cup nuts
- 1 cup graham cracker crumbs

Line rectangle cookie pan with squares of graham crackers. Melt margarine in a pot, add sugar, egg, milk—cook for 1 minute, stirring constantly. Take off stove and add coconut, nuts, graham cracker crumbs and mix real well. Pour this mixture over the cracker squares in the pan. Add another layer of crackers. Add icing on top of crackers.

Icing

- 1 stick margarine, melted
- 1 box confectioner sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla flavoring
- ¼ cup milk

Mix ingredients together and spread over graham crackers. Cover and let set overnight in the refrigerator.

Gay Cook, a member of Blue Ridge EMC, will receive $25 for submitting this recipe.

Lunch Box Pizzas

- 1 tube (7½ ounces) refrigerated buttermilk biscuits (10 biscuits)
- ¼ cup tomato sauce
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 10 slices pepperoni
- ¾ cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese

Flatten each biscuit into a 3-inch circle and press into a greased muffin cup. Combine the tomato sauce and Italian seasoning; spoon 1 teaspoonful into each cup. Top each with a slice of pepperoni and about 1 tablespoon of cheese.

Bake at 425 degrees for 10–15 minutes or until golden brown. Serve immediately or store in the refrigerator.

Yield: 10 servings

Send Us Your Recipes

Contributors whose recipes are published will receive $25. We retain reprint rights for all submissions. Include your name, address, phone number (if we have questions), and the name of your electric cooperative. Mail to: Carolina Country Kitchen, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, NC 27611 or E-mail to: Jenny.Lloyd@carolinacountry.com

Mexican Lasagna

- 2 pounds ground beef
- 1 can (16 ounces) refried beans
- 1 can (4 ounces) chopped green chilies
- 1 envelope taco seasoning
- 2 tablespoons hot salsa
- 12 ounces uncooked lasagna noodles
- 4 cups (16 ounces) shredded Colby-Monterey Jack cheese, divided
- 1 jar (16 ounces) mild salsa
- 2 cups water
- 2 cups (16 ounces) sour cream
- 1 can (2¼ ounces) sliced ripe olives, drained
- 3 green onions, chopped

In a large skillet, cook beef over medium heat until no longer pink; drain. Stir in the beans, chilies, taco seasoning and hot salsa.

In a greased 13-by-9-by-2-inch baking dish, layer a third of the noodles and meat mixture. Sprinkle 1 cup of the cheese. Repeat layers twice.

Combine mild salsa and water; pour over top. Cover and bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour or until heated through. Top with sour cream, olives, onions and remaining cheese. Bake, uncovered, for 5 minutes longer. Let stand 10–15 minutes before cutting.

Yield: 12 servings

Recipes are by Taste of Home magazine. For a sample copy, send $2 to Taste of Home, Suite 4321, PO Box 990, Greendale WI 53129-0990. Visit the Web page at www.tasteofhome.com

GO ONLINE **Find more than 300 recipes at www.carolinacountry.com**

WildBlue Delivers

- RELIABILITY.
- AFFORDABILITY.
- AVAILABILITY.
- HIGH-SPEED.
- "ALWAYS ON" ACCESS.

FILL YOUR NEED FOR SPEED.

Is old-fashioned dial-up Internet service slowing you down?

Look to the sky.

WildBlue offers a satellite solution to your dial-up dilemma. With speeds up to 30 times faster than dial-up, WildBlue allows you to experience everything the modern Internet has to offer. It's fast, affordable, always on and available almost everywhere.

It's time to fly.

Contact us today. We'll deliver WildBlue to you.

WildBlue
Satellite Speed Internet℠

Requires a clear view of the southern sky. Not available in all areas. Usage subject to WildBlue's Fair Access Policy. Speeds not guaranteed. Value Pak is up to 10x faster than dial-up. Downstream speed comparison between Pro Pak and 42Kbps dial-up. Monthly fees refer to Value Pak. Prices subject to change. Equipment, monthly service fees, installation charges, taxes and minimum term commitments also apply. ©2006 WildBlue Communications, Inc. WildBlue, the WildBlue logo and Satellite Speed Internet are trademarks or registered trademarks of WildBlue Communications, Inc.

As little as $49.95 per month!

touchnc.net
1-877-90-TOUCH
(1-877-908-6824)
www.touchnc.net

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

ATTENTION!
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBERS!

Here's a plan that can provide
CASH TO HELP WITH FINAL EXPENSES

Up to $35,000!*

* Selected maximums apply depending on age

Now you can have a life insurance plan to help cover your final expenses –
a plan which pays up to $35,000 to help your family cover your last expenses – worldwide.

- Protection up to $35,000
- Benefits begin first day
- Eligible up to age 85
- No physical exam required, based on coverage
- No waiting period
- Proceeds immediately available at death of insured
- Company cannot cancel your plan, reduce your benefits or raise your premium
- Can cost only pennies a day
- Whole Life Insurance Policy 4-790(92)
  Underwritten by Standard Life and Casualty Insurance Co

MOST HEALTH CONDITIONS ACCEPTED!

Not affiliated with or endorsed by any government agency

Sample Monthly Rates per 1,000*

Issue Age	Male (non-tobacco)	Female (non-tobacco)
5	$ .55	$ .55
15	$ .59	$ .55
35	$ 1.30	$ 1.08
55	$ 3.20	$ 2.53
65	$ 5.36	$ 4.14
75	$10.23	$ 7.64
85	$19.77	$16.52

* Does not include $36 policy fee, minimums may apply

Sample Monthly Rates per 1,000*

Issue Age	Male (tobacco)	Female (tobacco)
5	N/A	N/A
15	N/A	N/A
35	$ 1.79	$ 1.49
55	$ 4.30	$ 3.55
65	$ 7.18	$ 5.41
75	$13.24	$ 8.85
85	$26.26	$17.67

* Does not include $36 policy fee, minimums may apply

CLIP AND MAIL COUPON TODAY!

ACT NOW!

Peace of Mind
3700 Forest Drive Suite 205
Columbia, SC 29204

Yes, I would like to know more about peace of mind!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____ Telephone _____

MAIL THIS COUPON TODAY TO RECEIVE
FULL DETAILS WITHOUT OBLIGATION

CC 09/07